

The Ontario Argus.

XXV

ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1921

NO. 14

RECLAMATION SERVICE JOINS IN EXAMINATION OF OWYHEE PROJECT

SENATOR McNARY WIRES P. J. GALLAGHER THAT DEPARTMENT IS READY TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR CO-OPERATION CONTRACT

ENGINEER EXPECTED HERE SOON

Work Undertaken as Result of Bill Passed by Legislature Appropriating \$5,000 for Re-Examination of Project by U. S. Government.

Engineers for the United States Reclamation Service will re-examine the Owyhee Project and may be expected in the field in the near future. This information was received in a telegram from Senator Charles L. McNary by P. J. Gallagher as whose instance a bill was passed by the legislature appropriating \$5,000 for co-operation with the federal department in this work.

Senator McNary indicated that the department had sent a contract to the Secretary of State for his signature, but representative Gallagher does not believe that even this formality is necessary in view of the provisions of his bill which places the appropriation at the disposal of the reclamation department for its expenditure.

The message received also stated that the engineer assigned to make the report on the project would be detailed immediately and therefore Mr. Gallagher believes that he will arrive here in a few days.

Just what the outcome of this examination will be is of course unknown, but with the previous favorable reports and the reductions that have been noted in construction work it is the belief of those who have followed the course of the project that it is in a favorable position for action.

Recent press dispatches have reported that the new administration contemplates forwarding the reclamation of arid and swamp lands as rapidly as possible. In a conference with President Harding while he was in Florida, Senator McNary outlined the legislation which his committee in the Senate proposed to introduce at an early date and secured his endorsement. The principal measure urged by Senator McNary is that embodied in the Smith-Pletcher bill which failed to pass in the House at the last session after having been passed in the Senate.

When this bill becomes a law, as it is confidently believed it will, the government will take bonds of irrigation districts as security and issue government bonds with which to finance projects. The projects however must first be passed upon by the department. An examination of the Owyhee project at this time, therefore will place it in a position for early approval under the new plan, it is believed.

LECTURER TO TELL WHAT WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC IS

At the Methodist church next Monday evening, N. W. Phelps State Superintendent of the World's Purity Federation will deliver a lecture on "The White Slave Traffic." Feeling the importance of this work churches of the city have decided to make the meeting a union gathering of all their congregations.

L. R. Brethaupt is confined to his home with an attack of the "flu."

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Oakes spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Brogan. Mrs. G. B. Smith and daughter arrived Tuesday from Nenana, Alaska to visit her brother and sister, Mr and Mrs. D. W. Powers.

A. R. McDonald, salesman for the Ford Garage who has spent the past few weeks at the home of his parents in Hontain Home returned to Ontario this week and is again at work here.

Miss Merle Bingham is assisting Dr. Roberts in the dental office.

What is Ontario to do About Getting Irrigation Water

It is about time that the people of Ontario begin thinking about the problem of irrigating their lands this summer, says Mayor W. H. Doolittle.

"This is a matter in which the city government is not directly interested, but something must be done," said the Mayor prior to his departure for Tacoma Wednesday.

"If the property owners want gravity water it is time for them to

PLAIN JAG AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION START TROUBLE

D. P. Dearborn inaugurated his temporary occupancy of the position of Police Judge in the absence of Judge C. M. Stearns, by hearing two booze cases. The first appearance before his honor was Amos Roethler, charged with accumulating an excess package of intoxicating liquor, contrary to the 18th amendment, the state and city ordinances made and provided for such contingencies. Amos drew a plaster of 30 simoleans which he paid.

Next came one Don Wonaot who was pinched in a local rooming house and caught with an entire pint of alcohol, also an abridgement of the 18th amendment, the Volstead and other statutes. Don had created some disturbance prior to his capture so he was handed a \$50 fine, which failing to pay he is working out at Lee Noe's academy Vale.

TWO HUNDRED MASONS GATHER FOR SESSION

Degree Conferred by Patette, Nyssa and Ontario Masters—This Month Marks Twenty-Third Anniversary—Banquet Served.

More than 200 members of Masonic order gathered at the lodge hall of Acacia Lodge No. 118 A. F. & A. M. to participate in the initiation of four candidates into the M. M. degree last Thursday evening. It was the largest gathering of the order ever staged in Malheur county, and one of the largest ever held in the Snake river valley.

Included in the host of members present were more than 100 visitors from Washoe Lodge No. 25 of Payette, Idaho, 20 members of Nyssa lodge and five from Vale lodge, together with some fifteen or twenty from other lodges in Oregon and Idaho.

Four candidates, O. H. Test, William McKenzie, A. L. McDowell and Stanley Mallett were initiated into the mysteries of the Master Mason degree, and a banquet was served by a committee from Star Chapter O. E. S. consisting of Mrs. J. R. Rasmussen, Mrs. J. L. Springer and Mrs. D. S. Audeberg. Three tables were set for the banquet and 181 visitors and members of the Lodge were served. Many realizing that the effort to feed them would delay the work, went home for dinner and returned to see the initiatory work.

First Master Confers Degree After Paul Walker, Master of the Washoe Lodge conferred the first two degrees, assisted by the Washoe degree team, A. L. Hall, master of the Nyssa Lodge conferred the third, and Cassius H. Brown, the first Master of Acacia Lodge conferred the last degree.

Four of the charter members of Acacia Lodge were present at the gathering last Thursday to recall the historic gathering at which the order was established in Ontario twenty-three years ago. The twelve charter members who were: C. H. Brown, G. L. King, C. W. Mallett, E. H. Test, J. J. Cortright, H. W. Clement, William Miller, Geo. W. Blanton, William A. Sisson, Jas. Farley, J. J. Thomason, and B. L. Milligan. Of these all are still living, and seven still live in Ontario or vicinity. The four charter members present at the gathering last Thursday night were: Judge Brown, Judge Test, C. W. Mallett and H. W. Clement.

The members of the lodge plan on the regular meeting of the lodge on Thursday March 23 to take note of the fact that on that very date Acacia Lodge will be 23 years old. Not in its history has the lodge had so remarkable a growth as in past year and a half and it is confidently believed that with the applications now pending 1921 will surpass by far any record made in the past 23, in fact will more than double several years put together.

act, and not wait, as they did last year until several who signed an agreement for a number of lots declined to take any. "As a matter of fact the gravity water users come into direct competition with the city water system, but if the people want that kind of service they should be getting the matter arranged for soon so that the ditches can be put into condition to carry water."

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION GIVES ORDER FOR COMPLETION OF HIGHWAY

At Portland Wednesday the State Highway Commission issued a blanket order to the Engineering department to advertise for construction all of the Old Oregon Trail to Ontario as soon as a section was ready for construction. This means that work will probably be started on all of the sections not yet under contract, on that the entire road will be finished this fall.

The above information was received in detail in the issue of Wednesday's Oregonian which gave in detail the statement of the meeting at which the order was given.

"This order means that the road North will be completed this year," said Judge E. H. Test, who was very much elated at the announcement. Other Ontario good roads enthusiasts were equally jubilant. "This is the best news we have had in years," said H. L. Peterson, chairman of the Commercial Club's good road committee. This sentiment was repeated many times by business men on the street.

With this assurance on the part of the commission it is probable that by fall there will be a good gravel or paved road all the way from Ontario to Portland, Astoria and other coast points.

GENEROUS OFFER MADE FOR LIBRARY BENEFIT LOCAL LEGION BOYS TO STAGE BIG SHOW

J. R. Blackaby Offers To Pay Half Of Cost of Improving Basement of Carnegie Library If Other Half is Subscribed

J. R. Blackaby, president of the Ontario National Bank has made an offer to the Library Board to subscribe half the fund needed for the improvement of the basement of the Carnegie Library. The offer has been accepted and the board plans in the near future to open subscriptions for the other half.

Mr. Blackaby's offer was made contingent upon the subscription of the balance and therefore the board will appreciate the co-operation of other public spirited citizens who are invited to come forward with offers of assistance.

The basement of the library which is a large room was not finished when the building was erected and is now needed for the growing patronage of the institution. The room when completed will prove a most convenient meeting place for public gatherings, and will be open for use of the people of the county just as is the library in all its branches.

The library board has not completed its plans for securing the remainder of the fund but announcement will be made of these at an early date.

FEDERAL FARM LOANS SOUGHT IN VAST SUM

Ontario Farm Loan Association Has Pending Many Loans—Ranchers Take Note of Resumption—May Be Months Before Loans are Made

Ranchers in Malheur county have taken note of the fact that the Farm Loan act has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court and have already begun making application from the Ontario Farm Loan association for funds.

According to advices received by W. F. Homan, secretary of the local association, from the Federal Loan Bank at Spokane, it will be some time before loans will be made. The delay is occasioned by the fact that it will be necessary to float an issue of federal farm loan bonds to finance additional loans. Also a new set of application blanks will be used and these have not yet been issued.

When the farm loan bank ceased to make loans pending the determination of the validity of the act there were applications passed upon in this section totaling \$100,000. Mr. Homan is of the opinion that there is in sight right now ready for action enough business to demand of the farm loan bank \$250,000 for Malheur county farmers.

The officers of the local association are: G. W. Dean, president; A. Gramme, vice president; Han Ott, Ira Dall and John Keegan, directors. The appraisal board consists of C. T. Lackey, Charles Thompson and Rex Marquis.

Judge Geo. E. Davis of Vale was here yesterday on his way to Baker to attend circuit court.

"The Fumbles of 1920" Extravaganza, Musical Comedy and Minstrels Combined in Elaborate Production.

The local Post of American Legion has signed contracts with the Wallace Hillman Producing Co. to stage their famous "Home Talent" show—"The Fumbles of 1920" at the Majestic Theatre in Ontario at an early date.

This Company have for the past two years been devoting its time to the production of shows for the benefit of the Legions thru out the country, and have given great satisfaction where ever they have shown. They come to Ontario with the recommendations of over a hundred posts of the American Legion.

"The Fumbles" was produced in Caldwell, Idaho last week and the local people who saw it are loud in their praise.

The producers carry with them a stock of over 700 costumes which are conceded to be the most beautiful shown in the west, also their scenery, which is on par with the scenery generally carried by the better class of road attractions. There are three directors with the company each taking part in the show, Rodney W. Hillman who for years was producing musical comedy acts over the Pantages circuit, is the director of the dancing. He is assisted by Miss Goldie Sorensen who also does some wonderful dancing in the show. Sgt. Danny Wallace—who is known by most of the overseas boys for the shows he produced in France after the war and who was with the tank corps, is manager of the company and directs the book. With three such people at the head of the play the best home talent show that ever played in the city.

"The Fumbles" is in three acts, the book is written by Danny Wallace with special music by Rodney Hillman. The first act is a musical satire "DeLaBoheim" rich with music and comedy. The second act is the minstrels which is always a hit. The third act is "Cupid's Isle" a musical comedy with scenes in the south sea island. It is said to be a scream from the start.

The local legion boys who are planning on promoting movements for the betterment of Ontario will need assistance in presenting this production and are asking for volunteers to assist in this effort. The members of the auxiliary are co-operating with the legion in putting on the show. Members of the auxiliary will chaperon at the rehearsals and these have been so arranged that they will not conflict with school work.

Farewell and Welcome Party Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hinton gave a surprise party Wednesday evening March 9th for Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Chenault and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Chenault are leaving this week for La Grande where they will make their home. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are moving to the Chenault place which they recently purchased. Games were enjoyed, after which delicious refreshments were served. Those present were: Mesdames W. W. Hinton, E. F. Chenault, Wm. Miller, Chas. Fisher, Messrs. Paul Fisher, Rand and Billy Miller, Billy Hanes, Misses Alvina Miller, Elma Hanes, Torvilla Embody and Ruby Hanes.

Mayor W. H. Doolittle left last evening on a business trip to Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and other coast points.

H. D. Jenne returned Tuesday from a two weeks business trip to Portland.

Ground is being broken just north of the pavement on Illinois street for a new bungalow for Judge G. L. King.

ARBITRATORS AGREED UPON FOR ADJUDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY

MEANEST AUTO THIEF SHOWS HIS COLORS ON BOULEVARD

Somewhere out on the Boulevard is the meanest auto thief on record, so far as Malheur county is concerned. This auto thief of thirty-third degree meanness demonstrated his calibre last Wednesday night when he striped the Dr. A. G. Moore car of all its movable parts, stole the doctors veterinary case and nearly all his instruments.

To be stalled in the mud unable to reach the Hickox ranch to which he had been called, and to have to hike the balance of the way was bad enough for the Doctor, but to hike back again in the early morning to find tires, tools, coils and batteries of the car gone, and his surgical instruments too was rubbing it in pretty hard, the doctor believes.

ELECTION CALLED TO VALIDATE WARRANTS

Outstanding Warrants Embarrass City Administration So Voters Will Be Asked To Authorize Bonds to Replace Them

Ontario has a warrant indebtedness of \$35,000 which the voters will be asked at a special election to be held March 22 to transform into bonds. The indebtedness of the city will not be changed in any manner, but the form of the indebtedness will, that is all that the matter amounts to.

An ordinance authorizing the election was ordered at the regular meeting of the city council held last Monday evening at the city hall.

Clean-up Ordinance Considered The council also had before it a drastic ordinance prohibiting the keeping of stock of any kind within an area not set forth, but which was to have been named.

While all of the councilmen were in favor of the purpose of the ordinance as read they deemed too drastic for immediate application and moved to make it a special order of business at an adjourned meeting which is to be held next Monday evening.

Property Owners Appear H. O. Boyer appeared before the city council to again ask that steps be taken to remedy the troubles which cause water to lodge in the basements of the downtown business section. The committee which has been investigating conditions asked that further time be given it before reporting.

The council received an offer for the painting of the water tower for \$250, with all materials furnished. Last year a similar offer was made for two coats at \$900. The matter was taken under advisement.

Compel Connections Water Superintendent V. W. Chambers reported that on the west side of the tracks there are 30 houses which have no sewer and water service adjacent to the property which have not connected. The council ordered that they be notified to connect before May 1.

Several petitions were presented asking for sidewalks and graveling and these were made special orders for the adjourned meeting. The water committee was also requested to consider the matter of caring for the car furnished by the water superintendent it having been called to the attention of the council by Councilman Udick that the present allowance was inadequate.

Oregon and Idaho Solons Secure Postponement of U. S. Wool Sale

According to press dispatches from Washington D. C. Senator R. N. Stanford of Oregon and Senator Frank L. Gooding of Idaho celebrated their entrance into the upper house of Congress by securing from Secretary of War Weeks a postponement of the sale of 10,000,000 pounds of U. S. Government wool which has been stored at Boston.

A. M. JOHNSTON TO REPRESENT LAND OWNERS; E. M. GREIG APPOINTED TO REPRESENT COUNTY; C. C. HUNT SELECTED THIRD MEMBER

WILL PLACE VALUE ON LAND

First Section of Old Oregon Trail Section of Columbia Highway To Be Let At April Meeting—Balance Ready For May Meeting, Probably

Final steps toward securing the right-of-way for the Columbia River Highway will be taken this week.

A. M. Johnson of Dead Ox Flat, who was named by the land owners through whose property the road will run; E. M. Greig of this city who was named by the county court; and C. C. Hunt of Nyssa who was agreed to by the other arbitrators, will appraise the values, damages and benefits which will result from the building of the highway across the lands of property owners.

Mr. Greig and Mr. Johnston at a meeting Sunday afternoon selected Mr. Hunt and together the appraisers will start tomorrow to view the various parcels of land involved.

This action was taken as the result of a notification received by the county court from the state highway commission last Friday asking that the county funds, and the right-of-way deeds be sent forward so that the contract can be let at the April meeting.

County Judge E. H. Test went to Portland Sunday evening to appear before the Highway Commission at its meeting Tuesday and to assure that body that the details requested would be cared for immediately.

Repeats Request For Work Beside the Old Oregon Trail matter considered with the Commission Judge Test repeated the previous request for co-operation in the construction of the Vale to Burrel section of the Central Oregon Highway and told the commission that the county had the funds available for co-operation.

Judge Test reports that the session of the commission this time was the most active in the past year. Every county of the state was represented by delegations asking for immediate construction of roads. Contracts for more than a million dollars worth of work was let.

TWO LOCAL CHURCHES MAY BE CONSOLIDATED

Members of Congregational and United Presbyterian Bodies To Meet Tomorrow Night To Discuss Proposals

For the purpose of considering what might be done to consolidate the congregations of the United Presbyterian and the Congregational churches of this city a meeting will be held tomorrow evening at the Congregational church.

No definite step has been taken in the matter but it has long been entertained by members of both churches informally. To bring about such a result several preliminary steps will be necessary and arrangements made with the boards of the churches. However these are details which it is believed can be arranged.

This sale was to have been held today.

The Western Senators, both of whom are well known sheepmen demonstrated to Secretary Weeks the injury that would have resulted to the already embarrassed sheepmen if the government sold its wool at this time, just when the 1921 clip is ready to be placed on the market.