

**The Ontario Argus**  
County Official Paper

An Independent Newspaper

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G. K. Aiken, Managing Editor

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**CAN TAXES BE REDUCED**

Judging by the protests one hears almost every day concerning taxes the idea would be gained that Ontario, School District No. 8 and Malheur county each and all of them were on a gigantic spending spree. It might also be thought that the City Council, the Board of Education and the County Court were in a conspiracy to ruin the taxpayer.

The Argus has been astonished at some of the statements made by men who in all reason should be better informed, and who ought for their own sakes not make statements that cannot be substantiated.

There is no doubt that taxes are high. The Argus would enjoy lower taxes, just as much, no doubt, as would the members of the City Council, the members of the Board of Education and the members of the County Court.

It is a fact, that the protestants evidently overlook that the members of the Board of Education and the members of the County Court are all taxpayers, and all are feeling the results of high taxes. And what is more, nearly all of them are giving their time to the public duties of their office without any recompense. That is more than many of those who are objecting are, or ever have done.

An examination of the statement of taxes, on the back of the tax receipts, will reveal to any candid man the cause of the increases which are noted this year. Such an examination will show that the county taxes are lower than they have been for years.

The school taxes are higher locally for the reason that the school system has grown faster than the property values within the district; and the further fact that salaries have risen here, just as they have all over the United States. Ontario schools have been compelled to pay adequate salaries if our children were to be given the character of instruction to which they are entitled.

It is a notorious fact that until the shortage of teachers with the resulting demand for their services secured for them rises in wages the teachers of America were grossly underpaid, and therefore a part of the increase, with the resultant rise in taxes, is but a readjustment of the inequalities which existed for years.

Omitting entirely the question of school taxes, the rise in taxes is to be found elsewhere than the city, school or county levies. It is in the state levies that the rise resulted. This year the state levy is 10 mills, compared with 4.8 mills in 1920, and a large portion of that increase is accountable for in the millage increase or higher education; which the people themselves voted at the election last May.

It is right and proper that the taxpayers should watch the tax rolls closely and that the public officials should know that their acts are under scrutiny, but a justice to the local officials they should not be held accountable for the acts of the legislature or the acts of the voters themselves.

It is probably safe to say that if all the taxable property in Malheur county were on the rolls; that is; if every property owner made an absolutely true return of property owned by him, the levies would be smaller. For example, there are only a few dollars of cash assessed, yet every two months the printed bank statements show millions on deposit in the banks of the county. Then there is the question of notes and other property that is never taxed; while it is notorious that a complete census of the stock owned in Malheur county never has appeared on the tax rolls.

In these derelictions the property owners of Malheur county are no worse than those of any other county, yet the fact that this condition does exist, as everyone realizes, is one of the reasons for high tax levies. By so failing to observe the plain mandate of the law and thus keeping property from the rolls that should be exhibited, these people make of themselves a privileged class; and such a class has no place in the American scheme of government.

We have heard protests from taxpayers whose taxes are based on less than a thirty per cent valuation, and we believe that an investigation honestly made will reveal the fact that at least 90 per cent of those who are voicing protests would not sell the property they own for three times what it is valued at for taxation purposes.

In all the foregoing the Argus does not argue that high taxes are beneficial or that useless expenditures are justified, but we do assert that many of those who are objecting possess, relatively speaking, more property than their actual tax-payments show when compared with the average citizen.

We believe it is safe to assert that there are not more than 500 persons or corporations in Malheur county whose property is on the tax rolls at a value of \$10,000 or more, and it is from a comparative few of these that the principal objection is heard.

The values of their property is not inherent in the property itself, but in the fact that there are some 10,000 other citizens living in the county. It is people, not property that makes value, and while the large as well as the small property owner has a perfect right to be heard and to follow closely the administration of county, state, city and school affairs; yet it does not follow that consideration for the taxation to be borne by property is to be the sole guide to public policy in the administration of affairs.

Finally it is to be remembered that the tax rolls which the protestants are objecting to now were made up last year before the slump

in prices and the adjustment of values, and there is every likelihood that when the rolls are made up this year these elements will be taken into consideration.

The Argus is thoroughly of the opinion that there is to be a general retrenchment in expenditures in all civic bodies in the next year, and in many there ought to be, the question, however, is where this should take place. It is neither just, nor would it be wise, to condemn everyone and everybody connected with the various departments of administration indiscriminately.

We would suggest that the taxpayers and voters of the county take advantage of the recent law authorizing the appointment of a committee to review the tax levies of all the taxing bodies in the county, to see whether or not real economies can be achieved without disrupting the various units of government. In that way, not in indiscriminate censure we believe, lies the way to sane reform.

**AT ONTARIO HOTELS**

Following are some of those registered at Ontario hotels the past week:

MOORE: Mr. and Mrs. Stanton, John F. Conroy, C. T. Riley, Mitchell Needham, John Conroy, Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Hopkins, Dell Kauphusman, Juntura; G. A. French, Mrs. E. J. Johnston and baby, I. E. Johnston, Ad Gustavos, Baker; P. J. Connolly, E. J. Howard, Mrs. Arley Acton, Drewsey; W. J. Sargent, Malheur; W. H. Abendroth, Parma; A. E. Nichols and wife, Ironside; E. B. Boyd, Nampa; Mrs. and M. J. Bradburn, Brogan; Mrs. L. J. Munsard, W. W. Johnson, Crystal Stacey, Lula Burrelle, J. C. Gordon, L. H. Allen, Geo. W. Jackson, Vale; Walter Yardell, Baker; Jm Ross, Prairie City; G. L. Atkinson, Weiser; Mrs. Stella Hoover, Nyssa; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Powell, T. P. Brown, Mt. Home; A. W. Reichow, Nampa; C. E. Johnson, Westfall; E. A. Woodyard, Pendleton; Mrs. Maude Maltby, Summer Lake; Mrs. Sam Flinn and mother, Grangeville, Idaho; R. L. Merchant, Harper; J. W. Beymer, Heppner; Laura Brunzell, Ruth Burlingame, Nampa; Mr. and Mrs. John Norwood, Jamieson; Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hunter, Nampa; Mrs. Harry Howell, Twin Falls; R. A. Bowman, Weiser; J. S. McCumsey, Burns; Mrs. E. Smith, Weiser; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rose, Glens Ferry; H. W. Irving, Ellen E. Conger, Crane; A. H. May, Echo; D. C. Murphy, Beulah; Sam Cream Weiser; N. K. Olmstead, Pendleton.

CARTER: Adam Murry, John O'Toole, Pete Murphy, John McLeod, Juntura; I Yant, Weiser, R. Sage, Nyssa; Jim Reddull, Vale; E. R. Boyd, Nampa; W. A. Goodman, Burns; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Withers, Burns; J. B. Stanfield, Mt. Home; J. K. Shotwen, Hermiston; Mrs. Rose, Boise; Amos Roethler, Drewsey; Melvin Dripps, Riverside; Bert Simonson, Bonita; Wm. Arthur, Baker; C. P. Laurence, Ironside; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rose, Baker; Scott Lindsay, Vale; N. A. Lockett, Huntington; G. B. Parsons, Nampa; Lee French, Orville Bowers, New Plymouth; L. M. Bach, Mt. Home; J. B. Brown, Boise; A. Mintzer, Nampa; R. M. Carlisle, W. Morgan, Vale; Jerry Cochran, Harper, M. J. Shelton, Brogan; A. C. Woodruff, Burns.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO IMPROVE CERTAIN STREETS AND AVENUES IN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON**

Notice is hereby given, that at the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Ontario, Oregon, held on the 4th day of April, 1921, the following resolution was adopted:-

"Resolved: That the Common Council of the city of Ontario, Malheur County, Oregon, determines it expedient, and proposes to improve the following streets and avenues in said city, to-wit: Richardson Street from the intersection thereof with Michigan Avenue to its intersection with 10th Avenue; Virtue Street from the intersection thereof with Michigan Avenue to the intersection with 10th Avenue; Morfitt Street from its intersection with California Street to its intersection with Idaho Avenue; Kansas Avenue from its intersection with Virtue Street to its intersection with Richardson Street; Nebraska Avenue from its intersection with Virtue to its intersection with Richardson Street; Indiana Avenue from the intersection thereof with Virtue Street to its intersection with Oregon Street; Wyoming Avenue the same; Colorado the same; Nevada Avenue from its intersection with Morfitt Street to its intersection with Richardson Street; Idaho Avenue from its intersection with Morfitt to its intersection with Oregon Street; Montana Avenue from its intersection with Virtue Street to its intersection with Oregon Street; Dakota Avenue from its intersection with Virtue Street to its intersection with Oregon Street; Minnesota Avenue from its intersection with Virtue Street to its intersection with Richardson Street. That said streets and avenues be improved in the following manner, to-wit:-

1. By grading the street to the proper subway.
2. By covering the surface thereof with gravel, for width of 16 ft.

and a depth of 6 inches.

3. By laying sewer pipes where necessary; by laying concrete headers where necessary.

4. By constructing street monuments where necessary.

5. By constructing street drainage where necessary.

6. By Constructing concrete culverts where necessary.

Said improvements shall be made in accordance with the Charter and Ordinances of the city of Ontario, Oregon, and in accordance with the grade, plans, specifications and estimates of the city Engineer hereafter to be filed in the office of the City Recorder of said city.

The cost of said improvements shall be assessed upon the property especially benefited by said improvements, as provided by the Charter of said city, except that the city shall pay for the cost of all street intersections.

And be it further RESOLVED, that the Common Council of said city shall procure a competent Engineer to make the place estimates, plan and specifications for said improvements, and file the same in the office of the Recorder of said city within ten (10) days from the adoption of this resolution.

And be it further RESOLVED, that the said City Recorder of the city of Ontario, be and hereby is, directed to give notice of said proposed improvements, as provided by the Charter of said City."

The estimate of the City Engineer for the proposed detailed cost of said improvements is the sum of Dollars.

And you are further notified that remonstrances against said proposed improvements may be filed in writing with the undersigned, within twenty (20) days from the posting of this notice, which is the 6th day of April, 1921, and that thereafter the Common Council of said city will hear said remonstrances at a meeting thereof, to be held in the Council Chamber, at the City Hall in said city, on the 27th day of April, 1921, beginning at the hour of 7:30 P. M.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL,  
CLAY M. STEARNS,  
Recorder of the City of Ontario,  
Malheur County, Oregon.

(SEAL)  
Date of first Publication, April 7.  
Date of last publication, April 21.

Eat at Fifer's where we employ AMERICANS. Adv 18.



**Your Wife is Waiting for You Mr. "Need Some Shirts"**

Right off hand we know fully 200 Ontario wives who would be glad to give up club this week—to meet their husbands here—for new shirts.

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If you read this adv--please talk it over with your wife.

If you are not reading it---we hope she does.

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Good Clothes for Men

**WILL CLOSE OUT**

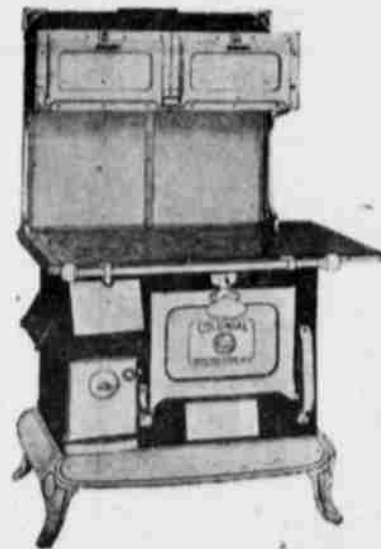
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