

The Ontario Argus
County Official Paper

An Independent Newspaper

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G. K. Aiken, Managing Editor

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DANGEROUS BUSINESS

The proposition made to the Malheur County Farm Bureau that all property in Malheur county be placed on the tax rolls at fifty per cent of the present figures is indeed a serious one. It is fraught with real danger.

To reduce the valuation rolls will not reduce expenses, one cent. It will, however, raise the millage levy 50 per cent. It will make it impossible for some years to come for any drainage district to be formed in the county to reclaim lands that might become water logged. It will stop districts that desire to build schools from issuing bonds to do so for the limit of indebtedness will be so low that no issue could be sold.

Since the principal sources which call for tax funds are the schools and the state the next question is what will happen to state taxes if the valuation is reduced? Simply this: the state tax commissioner will adjust the valuation so that Malheur county will pay as much state tax as before; that is what his duty is. All of the taxpayers of Malheur county will have to pay the state tax no matter what the local valuation is; but by reducing the valuation there is a real danger of injury to our schools.

While it is argued that: "If the valuation of last year was right, then present returns from farm property is too high," it does not follow that the valuations should be reduced.

No state or county or school district can manage its affairs from year to year with a fluctuation

such as that proposed; and in fact that do not; for when the valuation gets low the authorities proceed to raise the levy and produce the same sum of money. What does happen is that some people continue to make their property return on the same basis every year and they get hit with the higher levy. It is merely an attempt to shift the burden.

The Argus believes that the taxpayers and the people generally will welcome any constructive suggestion or effort to reduce taxation; but it must come reduced expenses. Unless the expense of government can be reduced, there is no real hope for tax reduction.

As noted above the two principal calls upon the taxpayers come from school and state; therefore they offer the only means through which material reductions can be made. The state legislature has made its appropriations for the biennium—therefore there is no relief available there. The school boards have hired their teachers for the year to come, and there is little opportunity of thus curtailing expense, even if the people would stand for attempts to tamper with the schools and in reduction in their efficiency.

And that places the problem where it really lies—with the people. There is no denying the fact that for their children the people want, demand, and will insist upon adequate schools. To have adequate schools, according to modern conceptions of education costs money; which the taxpayers have to raise regardless of the valuations they place upon their property.

It is significant that the principal objectors to present taxes are the big property owners; men and corporations who have no children to educate in the schools of this county or state. It means nothing to them what advantages, or disadvantages the boys and girls of Malheur and of Oregon labor under—what they want is that their pocketbooks be untouched.

It is trite to say that the entire value which their property possesses is that created by the presence of people in this county and state. Were it not for the presence of these people with their families the lands which now are valuable would be inhabited by coyotes and jack rabbits and be used only for public range. With each succeeding year and its attendant increase in population the valuation which these landowners place upon their property for sale purposes has increased, at least is generally true—and proves the source of values.

Even now, while there is an agitation among these big landed interests for a reduction in valuations for taxing purposes—it is also true; there is no reduction for sale purposes. We believe that the people of the county will take more kindly to suggestions for reduced

valuations for taxing purposes when these people practice their preaching by reducing the prices of their lands so that those who want to live here, and raise families here, can buy their holdings with a hope of ultimately paying out upon them.

MR. YEON WAS IMPRESSED

There can be no doubt concerning the impression which was left with the members of the State Highway commission concerning the potentialities of Malheur county.

It is gratifying to note how completely Mr. Yeon, for example, appreciated the value of the first impressions strangers to Oregon will receive when they reach this state at Ontario and pass across Dead Ox Flat or go over the John Jay Highway and note the country, between here and Vale and its wonderful development. The vision and the wisdom of a man of Mr. Yeon's ability having reached such a conclusion is certainly a justification to Ontario for its work in civic improvement, and of the ranchers of the county about whose fine farms, comfortable farm homes and advanced standards so impressed the visitors, as it will all those who come this way in the future.

The commissioners appreciate that the first impressions which tourists will receive coming from the East, and the last those will have to come from the west and pass out of Oregon are of real importance to the state, and that is one of the elements to be considered in determining the termini of the state's highways.

But this is not all of the message which brings gratification to the hearts of the citizens of this county, for Mr. Yeon declared, too, that the commission desires to have the John Day Highway completed as well as the Old Oregon Trail. This highway is as important as the Old Oregon Trail, and as he says it will furnish an outlet to the people of the state who are not now served.

With the cheer of Mr. Yeon's message still with us, we can but regret that the entire Highway commission did not visit this region years ago; but now that they have come, we again would thank them, and add: "come again."

THE NEW AGRARIANISM

Those who would turn back the wheels of agricultural progress by doing away with the work of the County Agent for the farmers of Malheur county, apparently little appreciate what the position of the Farm Bureau and the County Agent is, and how generally this work is recognized over the length and breadth of America.

In the May issue of the North American Review, admittedly one of the most conservative of the magazines published in this country, the leading article entitled: "The Farmer in the Commonwealth," its author is Ralph H. Gabriel, assistant professor of history in Yale University. Among other things Mr. Gabriel says:

"Almost overnight, the Farm Bureau has become a factor of major national importance. It must not be believed that this is the only Farmer's organization. There are active survivals of earlier organizations of which the Grange is probably the most powerful and most useful. Furthermore there are organizations of specialists within the agricultural field such as the Dairy-men's League, and the National Wool Grower's association. The center of this complex of organizations, however, is to be found in the Farm Bureau.

"And what is the Farm Bureau? Its origin will explain its character. It is practically founded upon the Smith-Lever Law, signed by Mr. Wilson on May 8, 1914. This measure appropriated more than \$5,000,000 for the carrying on of agricultural extension work among the farmers of the various States, with the proviso that the States benefiting should at least duplicate the sums furnished by the National Government. It was an attempt on the part of the National Government to put the new science of agriculture actually at work on the nation's farms. The land grant colleges were to supervise the task in the States. The solution took two forms the building up of extension departments in the colleges themselves and the development of the county agent. The latter stands at the centre of the whole organization. He is not an expert and is not supposed to be able to answer off-hand the thousands of questions that pour into his office from the citizens of the county he serves. He is a man with a general training in the science of agriculture, and it is his job to know where to get the information. He is the middleman between the practical farmer and the scientist. For cooperation with the county agent and for the raising of money to meet part of the expenses incurred the farmers of the county are organized into a Farm Bureau."

AT ONTARIO HOTELS

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

MOORE — Scott Kennedy, Pocatello; S. Tillotson, Drewsey; H. S. Sackett, W. W. Johnson, Mrs. L. J. Mustard, Valada L. Rose, W. S. Keele, Mrs. I. B. Quisenberry, F. W. Vines, Vale; C. J. Bartlett, C. P. Itagdale, E. F. Collins, Henry Williams, R. C. Harden, J. A. Small, G. A. French, Baker; E. A. Woodyard, Pendleton; Edgar Chapman, Burns; Mrs. F. H. Cierf, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McLain, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Snow, Boise; H. S. Argust, Phoenix Ariz.; H. Walters, Nyasa; G. Y. Chester, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Thompson, Ironside; J. A. Schmidt, Freewater; J. A. Colbert, Victoria, B. C.; R. W. Vanderhau, Homedale; J. P. Kropp, R. B. McKee, Eugene; Bader H. Dann, O. A. Megarden, Nampa; Adolph Claassen, Fler, Ida.; B. F. Pullen, Wallawa; Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Chas. Grabner, Brogan; Mrs. V. Douglas, Crane; W. E. Hedges, M. J. Stanton, John O'Toole, P. E. Joyce, M. M. Joyce, F. J. Kauphusman, Juntura; Wm. Connolly, Westfall; R. H. Anderson, Milton; John Simms, Joseph, Oregon; S. D. Stewart, Westfall; Alex Murray, Beulah; Jimmie Ladd, Mrs. E. W. Walker, J. R. Goldman, Mt. Home; G. J. Magenheimer, Chicago; C. L. Forbes, LaGrande; Geo. B. Van Waters, Portland; Albert Brown, America Falls; Philip Payne, Beulah; Carl G. Helm, Stanfield; W. E. Smith, Toppensish, Wn.; Marion Gentry, Denver; Ben Stuart, Riverside; Margaret Murphy, Beulah; Ned McCue, Payette.

CARTER—L. C. Marstens, Harper; Adam Murray, Juntura; Joe Howry, Crowley; Fred R. Randall, Yuma, Ariz.; Robert Hall, C. S. Rickard, Drewsey; Ed. Sovero, Riverside; Mildred Thruston, Caldwell; J. F. Reed, Brogan; A. Flor, Barren Valley; Ad. Holladay, Jackson Hole, Wyo.; Bert Thacker, Nampa; Grant Blake, Sugar City; S. D. Stewart, Westfall; M. P. Joyce, Juntura; J. C. Brady, Midvale; Mrs. Hillman and son, Grand Forks, S. D.; A. J. Kramer, Boise; Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Ostrander, Pocatello; H. W. White, Moberidge, S. D.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Bible School, 10:00.
Morning worship 11:00 Subject: "The Law."
Junior B. Y. P. U. 6:30
B. Y. P. U., 7:15
Gospel Service, 8:00. Subject: "Dives & Lazarus"
Prayer Service, Wed. 8:00.

FOR RENT—Large Sleeping room modern house. Phone 173-M. \$14.00 with garage. 161f.

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY BUYING YOUR HAT AT THE OSBORN MILLINERY

Straw Hats reduced to ONE HALF PRICE.

WE have a large stock of very pretty hats in dressy styles and smaller hats for street wear in black and colors. White and transparent hats are not included in this sale, but are marked very reasonable.

OSBORN MILLINERY
ONTARIO, OREGON

Watch Repairing

Bring or Send Your Broken Watches to

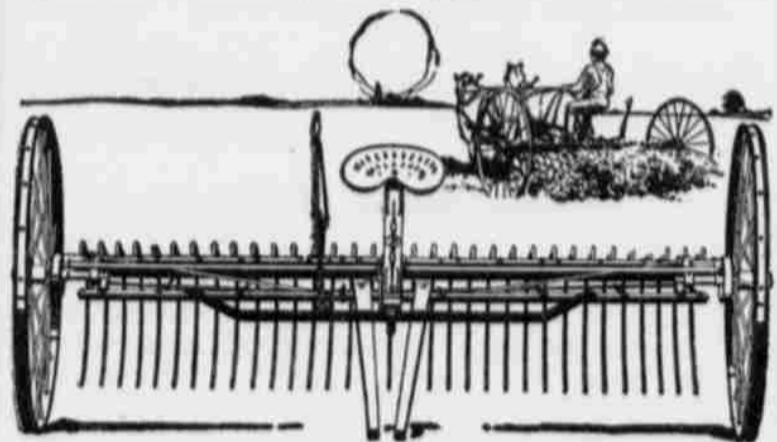
Blackaby

All Work Guaranteed

ONTARIO, OREGON

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.



A Sulky Rake That Gives Extra Service

There's real economy in buying a John Deere Sulky Rake. Because of its better construction, better material used, and the adjustments provided to keep it in good working order, it will give you more years of satisfactory service than any other rake we have ever seen.

JOHN DEERE SULKY RAKE

Its heavy angle steel frame never sags—the adjustable tie rod keeps the frame true, always. The heavy steel wheels with an extra number of staggered spokes, protected by the channel steel tire, are interchangeable, giving double wear on the ratchets.

The arched steel axles give the proper pitch to the wheels—the wheels

never pull in at the top and out at the bottom.

The dump rods are reversible, giving double wear at this important point. Tooth holder accommodates almost any desired number of teeth.

You can maintain the good working qualities of the John Deere Rake for years.

And from the operating standpoint, it is simple and easy to handle.

We want you to come in and see this better hay rake.

GEO. W. WAYT

ALEXANDER'S

"A Season Ahead Always"

In keeping with our well known policy of being Leaders In Price Reduction, we are now offering Merchandise at Lower than Replacement Prices.

YOUNG MEN'S SUITS

In the late, trim fitting, single and double breasted models. All wool worsted and cassimeres of the popular stripe and Herringbone effect.

\$25.00 \$30.00 \$35.00

CONSERVATIVE SUITS For the men who do not cater to the seasonable, fancy models

\$25.00 \$27.50 \$30.00

SUMMER UNDERWEAR

Long or Short Sleeves
\$1.00 and \$1.75
B. V. D. - **\$1.50**
Athletic - **\$1.00**

HOSIERY

Fancy Silk - 1.25
Plain Silk - .75
Lisle - .35
Cotton - .25
Black & Tan, 2 for .25

DRESS SHOES

Cordovan and Black
\$7.50 and \$8.50

DRESS SHIRTS

Silk Shirts **\$5.00 to \$7.95**
Fibre Silk **\$3.55 to \$4.65**
Silk Stripes **\$3.00**
Madras - **\$1.95**
Percales - **\$1.50**

Soft Collar Shirts
In plain and fancy colors
\$1.50 \$2 \$2.50 \$3.00

Canvas Shoes and Oxfords

White, Tan and Palm Beach
\$2.50 and \$3.00

RIDING BREECHES

Whip Cord - **\$5.00**
Garbardine - **\$4.00**
Khaki - **\$3.25**
Khaki - **\$3.00**

Whip Cord Trousers \$3.00
Khaki Trousers \$2.00

WORK SHOES

\$3.25 \$5.00 \$7.00

ALEXANDER

ONTARIO & VALE

ONE PRICE CLOTHIER

OREGON