

The Ontario Argus
County Official Paper

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AIDING THE THIEF

People, generally speaking, are honest. The average man or woman would not pause to aid a burglar to open the door of a residence or a store building and thus become an accomplice in a crime, even if they were told that they would have their division of the "swag."

Yet some of these same people will buy goods from strangers at ridiculous prices when they should know that goods thus offered are, in all probability, stolen.

Instances of this have been found by the local police officers. Recently a boy sold a number of silk handkerchiefs for ten cents each, which retail in the stores at from \$1.50 to \$2.00. It would seem that anyone offered these handkerchiefs would have asked himself: "Why are these offered so cheaply?" Logically, is not one who thus secures property for less than its value, guilty of dividing the "swag."

Whenever a peddler offers goods so evidently secured contrary to law it is the duty of those to whom

they are offered to immediately inform the officers so that they can apprehend the man and thus secure evidence to detect the crime.

The officers cannot by some sixth sense divine criminals. They must act on tangible information. If your home were robbed and its valuable contents taken, you would appreciate the efforts of the officers to secure its returns, would you not? You would appreciate it, if a neighbor having been offered some of your goods at a ridiculously low price, reported it to the police and thus secured its return to you, would you not? Then should you not give your neighbor that same protection for his property?

It is possible that with conditions as they are that this winter will witness a carnival of small crimes, and the public can aid the officers materially by giving them this co-operation. It is right that they receive it.

BE CAREFUL OF BOOKS

In the public library there is one book which is so popular at present that, though many have already read it, there is a waiting list of more than 30 who have asked for it. If all who desire to read it are to have the pleasure and profit they seek, those who do secure it will have to take better care of it than is usually accorded a public library book.

It is strange, but true, that what people receive for no direct expenditure, they little appreciate. In reality, of course, they should appreciate that which they secure gratuitously, even more than that which they own. But they do not, and that being true should be on their guard when using other people's property.

Six months ago the public library received a shipment of books, a large portion of which was of the popular fiction type. Already nearly all of these books have been so worn that they have been or are out of circulation while being repaired. The public is responsible for this condition. Though the art of book making has not maintained the standard of permanency which was obtained when all books were hand-bound, still they are sufficiently well made to withstand reasonable wear for a greater period than six months.

The average book in the public library, when it has been loaned a half dozen times must go to the bindery for repairs. That is manifestly unfair to the public which supports the library. It works to the detriment of those who use the library. It reduces the number of

books which can be secured for the money spent in repairs cannot be spent for new books.

Perhaps it is too late to secure a change in the ways of the older readers. They have established careless habits. They do not appreciate the worth of a book, but surely we can do something toward educating the children to the need for greater care for the public's property.

If you have enjoyed a good book from the public library, ought you not take good care of it, while it is in your possession so that others may enjoy it, too? If while you are injuring a book, one hundred others are doing the same thing, then together you are injuring the opportunity each has of gaining further pleasure. Ontario and Malheur county together cannot afford to maintain the library system to the standard it should have. The taxpayers are doing their very best now. Those who use the privileges of the library system ought to be the very ones who would so care for the books they use that greater service would be secured.

PREVENT FIRES ALWAYS

This is "fire prevention week." It is strange that we should have to set aside days and weeks for special observation of what should be a constant effort.

Every year the American people, largely through carelessness destroy more wealth than many of the nation's of the world possess. In no manner do we demonstrate our national wastefulness more than in the number of fires of all kinds which mark each year's history. The loss is appalling. To a less wealthy nation our fire losses each year would spell ruin.

Every day during the school year some school house somewhere in this broad land burns and places in jeopardy the lives of many children. Every day some home burns and some family mourns the loss of a mother or child. It is true that more mothers than fathers lose their lives in fires. Yet this goes on year after year.

We wonder if the time will ever come when matches will be kept out of the reach of children? Surely this is not a difficult task. Yet it is one of the most frequent causes of fires in homes.

If Ontario mothers and fathers would start today to put their match boxes out of the reach of their children they will have accomplished a real reform. It is not much but it may mean the saving of many lives. It is worth trying.

PORTLAND AND OREGON

Portland business men, receive more criticism than do the business men of most cities. By this time they should all be "hard boiled," or at least, "roasted to a turn," for they have been, "panned" often enough.

While we know that Portland is well able to care for its own interests, sometimes we feel that the "roasts" handed the men from the metropolis are not deserved. Often they are accused of derelictions which should be laid at the door of the Willamette valley, of Salem and a lot of the other cities of that region.

People out in the state, especially here in Malheur county have no reason to complain of Portland's attitude, for example, in the matter of the state highway program. Alto Multnomah county pays some \$874,000 into the state highway funds, it receives a very small portion in return while Malheur county which pays a total of \$24,796 to the highway funds is securing roads the total cost of which will be nearly \$1,000,000. As a matter of fact Malheur county's contribution will barely pay the interest on the investment which the state has made in its highways, and provide nothing for the retirement of the bonds. Naturally a large portion of the funds spent in Malheur county come from Multnomah county, for that county is the one big contributor which does not participate to any marked degree in the distribution of the money.

Nor is this all. Since Multnomah county has most of the autos which pay the gasoline tax, the funds which will maintain the roads in this and other Eastern Oregon counties will come from the big cities on the Willamette and Columbia, so when you feel like "cussing" Portland, it is only fair to remember what Portland and Multnomah county have done for the highways of Oregon and Malheur county, of which we are all justly proud, and whose benefits we all enjoy.

The one lesson that the Ontario High School football team should take to heart after the game with the Welsch Institute is—you cannot win foot ball games with fumbles. At that the boys ought not be downhearted for they came back

and tied the score after their fumbles gave the visitors a chance.

If a blind man at Cottage Grove can make a living by caring for 200 chickens, surely that should encourage the ranchers of Malheur county who possess beside all their senses, the opportunity to raise cheap feed, to go into the business.

Artistic Chinese Work.

Little jade trees growing sturdily in bowls of the rarest cloisonne and bearing upon the intricately carved branches, clustered close to the cool green of the jade leaves, wonder fruits of coral and amber and delicately wrought blossoms of the translucent white jade, might be a memory of the Arabian Nights and Aladdin's lamp.

They might be, but they are not. They are tributes to the infinite patience and skill of the Chinese artisan in semi-precious stones, and the zeal of the collector who buys with American gold the treasures of the Far East and gleefully carries them back across the Pacific for the delight of a luxury loving people.

They are expensive, but they represent not only the toil of years but the expression of the artist's soul.

Gloving the Tongue.

A glove for the tongue has been patented by an inventor of Indiana. It is called a "tongue shield," and is designed to enable the wearer to escape the unpleasantness of castor oil or other bad-tasting medicines. The contrivance might be said to have the shape of a miniature slipper without any heel portion, but when placed over the tongue is inverted. The tongue is inserted into the "toe" part and the back part of the "sole" extends over the top of the tongue toward the throat. The device is made of this rubber, so as to be liquid proof, and is so constructed as to fit the tongue snugly without discomfort. When medicine is taken it passes into the throat without affecting the sense of taste, so that all unpleasantness is obviated.

Thought Teacher Dence.

A teacher tried to impress on the child's mind the sound of the letter "a" by having him repeat it several times in different words. Getting tired of the repetition the child looked at the teacher and said: "Don't you know it yet?"



"That same tire down again"

Science discovers how unseen "lumps" in the rubber cause a weakness in ordinary tires

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