Capital Journal

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"Without or with offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—BYRON.

More Bureaucracy

Tireless and sleepless are the bureaucrats—and very ingenious in devising new ways and methods for sustenance and propagation. Like aphids, which live by puncturing plants and sucking the juices, the bureaucrats live by puncturing the taxpayer and sucking his sustenance. Like the aphids, also, they are characterized by the enormous rapidity with which they reproduce and their means of migrating from one host to another in their search for pap, as the aphids do for sap, even returning to the same host until it is exhausted.

We read in the dispatches that Lane county is to be the starting point for Oregon in a new paternalistic movement, whereby the farmers are to be organized to operate under the direction of a bureaucrat of the United States Department of Agriculture to determine the estimated yield for the coming year in order to control production and regulate the price of the farmers product.

The movement apparently has the support of the farmers who through wide-spread organizations are demanding government aid in the shape of government price fixing to be obtained through political pressure.

In a recent speech, Senator Wadsworth of New York said:

> I dread the day when, from a government office in Washington or a government office anywhere else, there shall come a decree that I and my neighbors shall sell a particular crop for a certain amount of money, at a certain place and to certain specified individuals or concerns.

Yet that dreaded day is apparently at hand. At any rate, the bureaucrats are taking full advantage of the situation and instead of there being one person in every eighteen on the public payroll, there will shortly be one in every ten. And yet the more we are regulated, supervised and ordered about, the harder up we get, for we have to pay the supervisors for destroying our initiative.

Selfish Strategy

Portland is now seeking to have the state assume the $650,000 indebtedness on the Columbia river bridge between Portland and Vancouver and make it a free bridge by abolishing tolls for the benefit of the motoring public—at least this is the excuse listed. The real reason is to discourage the building of a toll bridge on the lower Columbia and retain the auto traffic for Portland. The obstructive strategy is thus disclosed in the news columns of the Oregonian:

> Further plans for fighting authorization or construction of the proposed private toll bridge across the Columbia river between Rainier and Longview will be made by the port development committee at the Portland Chamber of Commerce in a meeting called for 4 P. M. Tuesday. Prominent among the committee's strategem are plans for making the interstate bridge between Portland and Vancouver a free span which would make the Rainier-Longview toll bridge idea less attractive to promoters and investors, and plans for having Washington or Oregon or interested portions of these states build through a bond issue between Longview and Rainier a bridge which would be so high and leave so wide a channel that all possibility of interference with Portland's port development would be obviated.

If the building of a new bridge cannot be halted in congress, Portland proposes to make it so costly as to make its financing impracticable and by competition with a free bridge make it unprofitable in operation. It is anything to retain a traffic monopoly for the metropolis.

The Revelations of A Star's Wife

A Story of Married Life and the Movies

By VIOLET DARE

Author of "A Wife on Leave," "What a Widow Knows," etc.

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MORE EXPLANATIONS.

"So we couldn't pay the man who'd sold us the new tire—of course, this would all happen when we hadn't a spare along, and not one of the old ones was worth patching. The financial situation didn't worry me any, though; I remarked with all the nonchalance in the world, 'Sorry I haven't any money, but I'll give you my card, and when I get home, I'll mail you a check.' And with that I started to drive off—"

"And the garage man stopped us!" Claudia burst in, interrupting Danny. "He was horribly ugly, the minute he looked at Danny's card, and he said: 'No, siree young man, you don't pull any of that stuff on me! Only yesterday you tried that game over in Washington and got away with it, but you can't fool me!' And he grabbed Danny by the shoulder the minute we stopped and hauled him out of the car."

"Oh, it was simple enough to see what had happened of course," Danny went on laughing. "Some chap's been going around here saying he was Dan Gardner, and cleaning up; probably he'd recognized me, though why he didn't pick somebody who was better known I can't see. And there's been a girl with him who claimed to be Claudia Dorveen, who's been cleaning up everywhere—buying things at the antique shops around here, and staying at hotels and not paying her bills—especially in Lenox and Stockbridge and Pittsfield and the other big towns.

"So when Claudia cut in and said she was herself and would identify me, that settled things. But what put the finishing touch on the whole party was when the man said with contempt that I'd give a lot to be able to intimate, 'I suppose this kid's a celebrity too,' and when Claudia said that he was Hugh's son."

"That really made him mad," [illegible] Claudia. "He simply raved; and that is when he marched us off to jail. Danny thought the whole thing was screamingly funny, of course, and we planned to phone you at once to come and identify us, but when we got to the courthouse in this town, there was the man who took tickets at that dance Danny and I went to the other evening. And, my dear, he identified us as Pamela Hicks and Putnam Wellington!"

"And that enraged the constable so that he was all for shipping us to Sing Sing or somewhere and getting a big reward for capturing us as impostors," Danny continued. "It seems that these other people have been cashing checks that were forged with our names, in addition to their various other crimes; certainly it must have been some other one who had seen us around near Claudia's and so knew that we were both up here. But that's all the tale there is, folks—except that there's a wedding booked for tomorrow morning, if you can get us out of jail and home in time for the ceremony!"

"Ye gods!" murmured Hugh, as, having carried out various transactions with the stuffy little man in charge and convinced him that Claudia and Danny were themselves, he led the way out to the car. "All I can think of to say is what Sally claims the public always remarks about folks like us—'Isn't that exactly like motion picture actors!'"

Hugh and I officiated as best man and matron of honor at the wedding on the south terrace the next day at noon; then we departed for New York and work. I wasn't sorry to go, delightful though the time had been that we'd spent at Claudia's, and I could see that Hugh was wild to get back and jump into things.

Tomorrow—A Long Road's Turning.

CITY ZONING LAW PASSED BY COUNCIL

The Salem zoning ordinance, long discussed and for a long time in the process of formation, came into being as part of the Salem government system last night when when it was passed by the city council. It will be signed by Mayor Giesy as soon as some minor technical amendments are written in, and since the measure carries the emergency clause it will be effective as soon as signed.

Prior to the council meeting last night a hearing was held by the council to give the public opportunity to protest against the measure, but only one citizen spoke in protest against it. This was Walter Downs, who spoke against it at the previous hearing a week ago. Downs declared that the people of the city want no zoning ordinance and that they so expressed themselves last May when they refused to vote funds to suport a planning commission. He averred that the council was taking too hasty action on the measure, and that it was too important for hasty action.

"It means expense and litigation with the taxpayer paying for both sides of the court fights that will follow," he said.

When no other persons manifested a desire to speak on the subject the council adopted the report of the planning commission recommending that the measure pass, and when it was put on final passage near the end of the session the vote for it was unanimous.

The matter of the A. L. Hirsekorn petition for authority to build a new laundry building where his old one is now located at 15th and B streets was finally disposed of by the council last night when on recommendation of the planning commission it refused to grant the authority on grounds of general health and welfare of the community. Hirsekorn himself spoke on the subject, declaring that not over 25 per cent of the people were protesting against it, while the zoning ordinance requires a protest of 50 per cent. Alderman Galloway spoke in Hirsekorn's behalf, declaring that he had talked probably to 50 persons about it and all of them had branded as unreasonable the action of the city officials. He said he could not understand why Hirsekorn would be allowed to go ahead with his business in his present unsightly building and be inhibited by the city from erecting a better building. Hirsekorn has this right under the zoning ordinance.

James G. Callison spoke in behalf of those who opposed the Hirsekorn application. He said that the people living in the district wish to live according to their station in life, and that they were neither denizens of a New York east side nor of Little Italy in Portland.

Prior to passage of the zoning ordinance Alderman Rosebraugh spoke on the measure, highly complimenting Chairman L. P. Campbell and the other members of the planning commission, who, he said, had worked hard night and day in preparing the ordinance.

After the vote Mayor Giesy said he wished to congratulate himself, the city council and the city of Salem on the new ordinance and on the character of the commission that had formulated it.

STAGE WHISPERS

Daniel in the lions' den had nothing on Douglas MacLean, judging from the funmaker's laughable predicament in his new comedy, "Hold That Lion," which opens today at the Elsinore.

In a laudable endeavor to prove himself a hero in the eyes of the one and only girl, the redoubtable MacLean joins what he mistakenly believes to is a "cat" hunting expedition. When he discovers that the "cats" are not the familiar and harmless household pets but wild, man eating lions, it is too late to withdraw.

As matters turn out, instead of MacLean hunting lions, the lions hunt MacLean. The results are just as funny and exciting as one would imagine. In the end, the comedian has the last laugh on the animals, for he succeeds in capturing a live lion, though in a decidedly unorthodox manner.

The lion hunt is merely the climax of a long series of mirth provoking adventures, which begin in New York when MacLean falls in love with a charming blonde. Unfortunately, the girl starts on a round the world trip before he can propose, but he manages to catch up with her in Africa. Thereafter the complications pile up with amazing rapidity, attaining hilarious and cyclonic proportions during the lion hunting episodes.

* * *

Fox Films, living up to their promise of showing the beauty spots of America in all their productions where it may be consistently done, filmed many sequences of "The Canyon of Light," which comes Thursday at the Oregon. The result is a picture not only with an absorbing story, but a scenic of rare beauty.

Tom Mix is cast in the stellar role of Tom Mills, the ranchman who at the opening of the world war goes to France, where he serves as a dispatch bearer. But before and after this event he is the hero in a series of episodes all of which are a part of a finely developed and motivated story, that is replete with thrills, excitement and suspense.

Tony, his wonder horse, has a prominent part and the beautiful Dorothy Dawn is cast in the leading feminine role.

COUNCIL VOTES INCREASED PAY ENABLING ACTS

Ordinances were passed by the city council last night making possible an increase of $600 each in the salaries of Chief of Police Minto and Fire Chief Hutton, making them $2400 instead of $1800 a year. The increases are made possible by the elimination of one police officer from the city pay roll. For the fire chief it was not necessary to vote an additional duty upon him, but since the police chief's salary is fixed by ordinance it was necessary to give him another job, and this was done by creating a board of censors of which the police chief is the head at a salary of $600 a year.

Other ordinances passed last night were:

Assessing the cost of improving South street from Fairgrounds road to Cottage street, $5618.

Assessing the cost of improving Madison street from Capitol to the Southern Pacific tracks, $4,779.58.

Amending the franchise of the Southern Pacific company by allowing the company to abandon its street car tracks on South Winter, Oak and South 12th streets.

Segregating the assessment levied on the property of A. C. Haag and others for the improvement of 17th street.

Vacating the alley in block 17 of Nob Hill annex.

Ordinance bills introduced last night were:

Providing for and assessing the cost of improving Lee street from 14th to a point 370 feet beyond.

Providing for and assessing the cost of improving 14th street from Mission to Lee.

Providing for and assessing the cost of improving Mission street from the Southern Pacific to 16th street.

Accepting a parcel of land from Sarah and W. W. Walker.

Establishing sidewalk lines on the west side of Hazel avenue.

FROM McMINNVILLE

Silverton, Dec. 21.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holmes and children of McMinnville visited the week end with Mrs. Holmes' mother, Mrs. Sarah Adamson. Their son Phillip, who is a student at the University of Oregon, remained to visit the week with his cousin Dale Moores.

DAVIE IS ILL

Stayton, Or., Dec. 21.—George Davie is confined to his home with a bad cold. Floyd Crabtree acted as tonsorial artist in Mr. Davie's absence.

GOES TO PORTLAND

Falls City, Dec. 21.—E. P. Brown, local garage man, made a business trip to Portland Monday.

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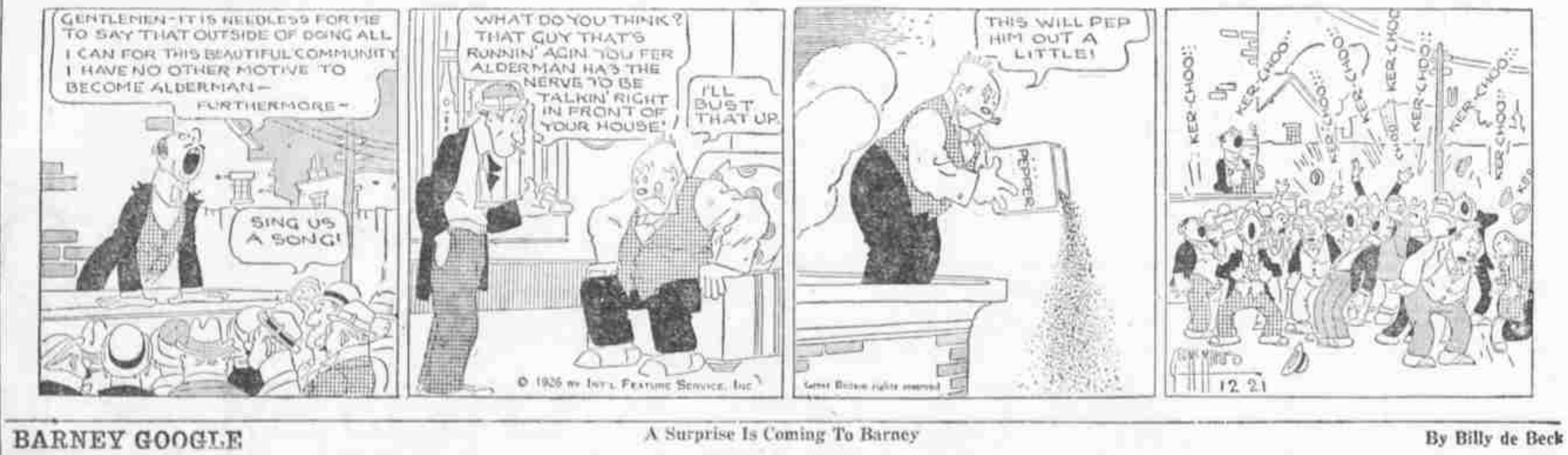

BARNEY GOOGLE

A Surprise Is Coming To Barney

By Billy de Beck

MUTT AND JEFF

Ex-ing Manul of Portugal Was Quite Willing—But—!

By Bud Fisher