

"BILL" HANLEY'S VIEW OF OREGON'S FUTURE

Tells How The State Is To Become One of The Greatest In The West Thru Co-operation. Key to Success Lies In Securing Desirable Immigrants and Making Them Feel They Are Sure of Every Success

(By W. H. Warren, in The Oregonian)

Bill Hanley, christened William, product of the Rogue River Valley, farmer and philosopher, who is interested in so many acres of land in Central Oregon that he himself hardly knows how many, says that the greatest problem of Oregon is to get ready to take care of the immigrants who will flock to the state when the Panama Canal is opened to the world.

While "Bill" Hanley—no one calls him William—is classed as a farmer, he is one—and more. He is a real student of American conditions and when it comes to telling about what Oregon needs and how to get it, he is the authority of authorities.

He is easily a picturesque character, but the most notable trait he possesses is his genuineness. There is none of the sham about him and he never "loses his head." Wherever he goes; he is the center of admiring attraction. Men like to talk to him because he is worth talking to. He is a great thinker and logic flows from his lips whenever he opens his mouth.

While other people are concerning themselves a great deal about various subjects to them of the deepest import, "Bill" Hanley is devoting his time chiefly to working out the vast problems that are to make of Oregon what it should be—a very great state.

"I find a lot of people worrying a great deal about what kind of a showing Oregon is going to make at the San Francisco fair," said he. "The real thing to worry about is how we are going to take care of the large number of people of all kinds who are surely coming here. When you begin to think about that, you are getting onto a subject that is big enough to keep us all work-

ing for a long time. It is Oregon's big question and it is going to be answered, too, not by talk, but by just such work as the Irrigation Congress, the Development League and the Commercial Clubs and Chambers of Commerce are doing. Co-operation is the watchword and co-operation will solve the problem of caring for our share of the immigrants."

"What means do you think should be used in handling these immigrants?" he was asked.

"They must be kept moving," he replied. "They've got to be kept moving. Never allow them to drop their grips or unpack their trunks here. Keep them a-going along to the country. The minute they stop in a little city, your slums have started; they will never leave. But once they get to the farms, they will never leave either. Things will work out all right by co-operation. That is, we've got to see to it that these immigrants are looked after when they reach shore and that they are sent along to such climates and surroundings as are as near to their custom and liking as possible. And this state has nearly all of the climates and conditions for any people who will come, too. You can get about any climate you want in Oregon, wet or dry, hot or cold.

"Now, the thing that's to be done with these people who are going to come here, is to see to it that they get started right. The problem is to get them to go through the cities to the country and to the right places. They will go if we get ready to see to them right. The cities must co-operate with the farmers and the towns and villages must

be brought into the plan, so that we will have everyone working for the great good of the masses. If we do this, which I know we will, then our problem is solved.

"Now, I have an idea that the people should not be put into a climate to which they are unused; they should all be sent to places where they will not have to suffer in making the change from their native land to the new land. In other words, it is of the deepest importance that we shall see to it that every class of people coming here to settle shall be got to the place where they will be happy and where they will thrive and make good on the land."

Asked as to his opinion on how many people Oregon can care for well, he replied:

"Why, I don't know, there are more than 20,000,000 acres of land right in Central Oregon that's never been touched. At Burns and on our own projects, we need 100,000 people to do business with. Why, there is plenty of land for the people, if we can get them to it and get them started. There's happiness and plenty in store for them, too. We will have to prepare though, to look after them, and we ought to be doing it pretty fast in order to be ready. I don't care so much about how the state is represented in San Francisco at the fair as I do how we are going to get along when the big canal opens and the people begin to come in here."

His idea is that there should be no exploitation of those who are to be future residents of Oregon, but that the state and all citizens should join hands to make them feel at home and to make them happy in the new land.

"I have heard" continued he, "that there is great complaint in the cities as to the high cost of living. Let me say to you that this condition's got to be changed and it can be changed only by getting the land occupied by producers. You know how a big corporation is handled? Not too many stockholders; now, then, we don't want to get too many stockholders in the state or Nation either; we want workers in order to keep things running along right and be happy. To be happy is the thing to strike for; money alone won't make that, you've got to work hard and keep a-striving—keep at all times.

"Success don't come to the man that fails and a man's credit doesn't increase with his failures. I tell you; he's got to get in and hustle and do things. I'm not talking about myself to boast, but whatever success that I have made was made by deciding to do a thing and a-going to work and a-doing it. The fellow who goes by fits and starts won't get far. The fellow who gets there is the one who makes up his mind he is going to do something and then forgets everything else in doing it. If you start out to accomplish things, accomplish them. Don't let the little side issues make you think they're the real things, for if you do, you're lost.

"Now, I have a theory that the individual is no different from the city, the state or the Nation. We are all living here and we've got to eat and have something to wear and we want to enjoy ourselves and be happy. To do this, we've got to help each other. As a man or woman must not let their head get swelled over a little success, so must the city, state or Nation not be deceived, but we must look to it that we take good care of our people. Starve the people and you starve the city, state and Nation. Make the people happy, give them lots to eat and enough to wear and get along on and you make the city, the state and the Nation right."

"Do you believe that the high living cost will be regulated with the settlement of the country districts?" was asked.

"Most certainly," he replied. "It's got to be lowered. The whole trouble now is that we've got to many people in our cities and not near enough in the country; change that condition and you change everything. You cut the cost of living just as soon as you start people to raising wheat, cattle, hogs; things that people need and get things moving right in the country.

"I am not fearful that the state will not take care of the people who are about to come here, but I want to call attention to the conditions, so that one will get in and help to make them better. Of course, I don't believe in every one going to the country; that's no more use than everyone staying in the cities. We don't want either condition we want the proper number in the country. Get both fixed up right and things will move along in better shape and people will all be happy.

"In regard to the money part of this thing, I would say that the farmer, generally speaking, will be able to get enough money to work as much land as he is capable of working. From a broad standpoint, I would say that the financial end of the thing will work out all right, the whole thing being that a man must have within him the elements of success. What I mean by this is that every man is either a success or a failure in himself. He can't blame any one else. Now, you can't give one man who is not so able, as much ground to work as you would give the man who is able to handle a large amount of ground, but I am not in favor of limiting the amount of ground any of these immigrants shall take, except as to their ability to till it.

"There's not much chance for failure any more in the farming business, anyway. You can get a scientific analysis of your ground and know just about what you're going to have at the end of your season. We need to go on with this scientific work, so that the farmer will be able beforehand to know what he is to get for his year's work. The old conditions that made it so hard for the farmer are disappearing, and his lot will be an easier one and better one year by year, with the demonstration farms and the agricultural colleges helping out.

"It all goes a long ways in making the farmers life an easier one. That is to say a farmer used to do a whole lot of work that he didn't need to do, only in years gone by he didn't know it, don't you see? He worked harder than he needed to, because science had not reached the farm yet.

"Now, here's something I'm going to give to you—there's millions of dollars worth of land lying idle in Oregon that'll bring forth, when properly tilled, billions of dollars' worth of produce. Now, then, who's going to reap the benefit from that wealth? won't the people who go in and make good on the farms? Sure they will. Now, that shows the possibilities of the ground here in Oregon.

"It's a startling thing to survey this state and see how little producing is being done. Why, you take your own Willamette Valley and look it over. Why, there's nothing doing there compared to what should be doing. And it's well worked, compared to other sections. What's a fellow going to find out, then, when he takes in the whole state? Why, it's startling to what we must do to have a healthy state of affairs. The land's got to be settled up and worked people have got to get into it and make it produce things to feed the families in these large cities, like Portland. And when that's being done this cost of living business will adjust itself.

"Oregon is going to have her share of the immigrants. And on this Coast is going to be the population. Now why is that? Well, you know the Pilgrim Fathers landed where they landed because it was the easiest place to land, and everyone else that came over landed along the Atlantic and down that way because the Pilgrim Fathers made it fashionable. People like to be fashionable and people follow fashions. Now, then, when the Panama Canal is opened, it'll be easier to come to the Pacific Coast than anywhere else; there's better prospects here, and its going to be the fashion to come here. Future generations will see here on this coast, America's balance of population.

"The time is ripe to get ready for this population that's sure to come. We must take the costly experience of the East and apply it to the West, so that we can benefit by their mistakes and profit by what they've learned. It's no need to stumble along and blunder where they blundered, and if we do, we're guilty of not only poor judgment, but much worse. We want to arrange things so that our large cities, which are sure to be built up here, will have no slums; slums are not at all necessary and can be avoided, if we use proper care. Then, if we get our people happy and prosperous on the land, the people in the city will be happy and prosperous, for they can live cheaper and better and things will move along right.

"Broadly speaking, I'm not an advocate of city folks moving to the country, if they do, they want to go pretty early in life, for too much warm water on the face is bad for making farmers. I think parents should wean their off-spring very young. What I mean by that is, children should be taught young to depend upon themselves and should not be coddled too much; it spoils them. I was a sort of companion for my father, more than a son; that I worked with him all the time and what I've learned about farming and other things, I learned first hand and early in life, although a person learns something new all the time, as we all know.

"Now, there's one thing that I think ought to be impressed upon the people—that money don't make happiness. My observation is that the happiest homes are those of moderate wealth. Wealth is nothing by itself. People must be happy within themselves. What we want is plenty of happy families of moderate means. If we get these, things will be all right and the state will be better off."

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE HARNEY COUNTRY

Local Men Who Have Just Recently Returned From Outside Points Are Greatly Encouraged Over Railroad And Colonization Prospects. Predict Large Influx of Settlers This Spring And Rapid Development

Judge Levens, Judge Miller, William Hanley, Sheriff Richardson and Assessor Donegan were among those who went to Portland to attend the irrigation congress and visit other portions of the state, to arrive home last Saturday evening and all are proud they are Harney county people and pleased with the treatment they received by the people of the outside cities.

Members of the party not only attended the irrigation congress, but also went to Salem to witness the opening of the legislature, extending their visit to Eugene, Corvallis and other points. At all these places they met people interested in the Big Harney Country and were delighted with questions—in fact had to be regular information bureaus. They found a wide spread interest in this section and are confident many people will come here in the spring to make homes and investments. We seem to be well advertised throughout that section, due to a large extent to the railroads and the further fact that the Harriman line is now building into this territory. One man said he was surprised to find in some instances how much was known of our resources and then again to find people who seemed to know so little of us.

The local boosters did not get much definite information respecting railroad developments other than the feeling is general that the transfer of the construction work on the line now building is a good thing for the state as it brings the direct management of the work closer to home people and further that it is the expressed purpose to buy all supplies right here in Oregon so far as possible, and more particularly to give the farmers, stockmen and poultry raisers, in fact all producers right along the line of work the preference in furnishing such supplies. This means much to the Central Oregon section as it will furnish a market for vast amounts of products and be an incentive to greater cultivation.

It was further learned on good authority that it was the intention to push the railroad work as rapidly as possible and complete it during this year. A well known firm of contractors, it is said, has been given the contract to start work on the western part of the road to meet the work now being prosecuted from the eastern part. It was also intimated that the line through a portion of this territory is to be re-surveyed and it was not known definitely just where the line would go.

Another authority has it that the Hill line would be in this territory inside of two years, thus making a competing line. It has been suggested that the Hill people have secured valuable power sites both on the Deschutes and the McKenzie; and that the line would push across the Cascades at a convenient pass already selected, on through Central Oregon toward the east. That the entire system throughout the interior country would be electrified. This is not an unreasonable suggestion and may be true.

No one, who has followed the movements of the Hill people in this section, has ever doubted that they would come into this territory with their railroad at (Continued on Last Page)

LOOKING FOR BIG TRACTS OF LAND

Investors and Capitalists Are Securing Information And Prices Concerning Harney Valley Land Prior To Purchasing Large Tracts

B. F. Johnson, agent for the Oregon & Western Colonization Co., arrived here the fore part of this week with some men who were looking for land in the interest of big colonization people. They also want townsite property. The representatives were J. G. Quigley and R. M. Manson, of Oklahoma, W. D. Hutchinson of Spokane, a representative of the Colonization Co., was also with the party.

Mr. Quigley informed The Times-Herald that it was their intention to look over Central Oregon extensively for the people they represent and make a report. They were most favorably impressed with the Harney country, especially the Silver Creek section and secured such data as they could respecting the irrigation prospects for the lands of that Valley. Mr. McConnell, who is promoting this project was not here but Mr. Quigley has arranged to meet him either in Bend or Portland. Should these gentlemen decide to purchase, it will include a large acreage and immediately be settled up by people who are wanting homes and who are a part of the colonization scheme under consideration. We infer from conversation with the gentlemen that it would be the intention to start a town in the settlement and encourage rapid development of the lands acquired.

The gentlemen intend to visit Lake county a little later and will return here in the early spring to again look over this territory as at present with the snow covering it they were not able to determine the character of the soil on some particular tracts which interests them particularly.

This is a forerunner of what we may expect in the real estate line during the coming year as many people are looking to this section for homes and the coming of the railroads makes the territory more attractive. They realize the possibilities of Harney Valley with adequate facilities for reaching the markets.

Suggests Our Possibilities

Sumpster R'y. Mail Contract Still Pending

At the request of Senator Bourne, the postoffice department has telegraphed the superintendent of the thirteenth district instructions to endeavor to secure a contract with the Sumpster Valley railway for transportation of mail by train between Austin and Prairie City. The mail is now carried by stage, the railroad company having refused to make a contract. A petition has been filed with the postoffice department signed by several thousand residents of both Grant and Harney counties, asking for the establishment of this service. —Baker Democrat.

Later advices are to the effect that Senator Bourne was not successful in his attempt to get the Sumpster Valley to carry the mail from Austin to Prairie. It may possibly be adjusted should the contract which Kellogg's bonding house has to arrange be for such figures as will justify.

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