

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

W. F. AND ALMA McLING, Publishers
W. S. Brown, Owner

Subscription, Year \$1.50
Subscription, 6 Months 75c

Entered at the Post Office at Nyssa, Oregon, as Second Class Matter

ALFALFA BILL MURRAY

Since Alfalfa Bill Murray took his sudden and unexplained departure from Oregon last week, we've read no end of criticism and reams of conjectures but we all have to admit that Alfalfa Bill is different and a bit deep. He doesn't seem to be a policy man and is somewhat refreshing.

We have been told that Alfalfa Bill had a fight in Oklahoma, his native state. He was not a son of the rich. He had no money with which to finance an expensive campaign for the office of governor. So he hitch-hiked his way over

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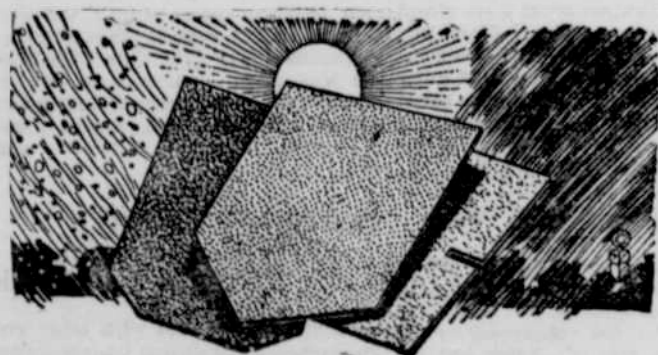


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the state. He was ridiculed but he landed in the executive chair.

May we quote, for the entertainment or interest of our readers, a few of the sayings which will bring him a bit of glory, if not the presidential nomination.

Civilization begins and ends with the plow.

It's much more important right now to know where to get a square meal than where to get a drink.

The trouble with our government now is that it is too powerful for the weak and too weak for the strong.

This country never will recover until the farmer recovers.

The failure of the banks did not break the farmer any more than the thermometer produced the blizzard. It was the other way about.

PLANT A TREE

Arbor Day in 1932 has a special significance, for this year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, who was a planter of trees. This anniversary is being commemorated all over the United States by a gigantic tree-planting campaign, in which Oregon is joining.

The dates of Arbor Day in Oregon are the second Friday in February for the western part of the state and the second Friday in April for the eastern part of Oregon. In Washington, Arbor Day is usually the first Friday in May.

Tree-planting festivals are probably as old as civilization. Sacred trees and groves, planted avenues and roadsides, shaded academic walks, and memorial trees were common long before America was discovered. Arbor Day, as such, however, is purely American in origin, and grew out of conditions peculiar to the great plains of the west, a country practically treeless over much of its area, but supporting a flourishing agriculture and with a soil and climate well able to nourish tree growth.

Even more beautiful and more important to the national well-being than the trees of street and park are the great forests of Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar and pine. An abundant supply of timber has always had a basic influence on the development of the American nation, and has contributed to its high standards of living.

Arbor Day gives school children a chance to plant for others as others have planted for them.

LESS COUNTIES—LESS COST?

The state of Oregon would be broken up into eight divisions under the county consolidation plan of U. L. Upson of Portland, who declares local government would be simplified and carried on more economically than by the present system of 36 counties.

Counties were laid out in horse-and-wagon days when travel was limited, he explains, but now with the speed and facility of the automobile larger units could easily be governed with economy. Thirty-six sets of enforcement officers would be abolished and their work handled by the state police, while highway and engineering duties of counties would be placed with the state highway commission, under the Upson plan. Mr. Upson believes that \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 annually would be saved to taxpayers under the plan.

Upson suggests that district boundaries be made to follow county lines to avoid confusion in the description of records and deeds. The plan also calls for complete revision of local and state government (but nothing is said about the cost of this). Each district would elect 3 commissioners who would serve as representatives in the state legislature and with one senator from each district would constitute the entire legislative body of the state. All administrative officers would be reduced from 36 to eight under the plan. The trouble with most plans is that it takes too much money to work them out.

Upson's plan shows Malheur and Harney in one district. It might be all right if the county seat remained in Malheur.

COMMENTS BY CLARK WOOD

Although the rival parties are painting each other black each would prefer that after November the other be blue.

Herb Hoover draws as much pay as Babe Ruth but he's in danger of only one put-out.

Although airplane fares are one-half what they were three years ago, aerial travel is still too high to suit us conservatives.

Congress, if made up of its severest critics, might do worse.

It may be because Russia's 5-year plan does not work that all her people must.

The time has come when the world can be glad that Germany's grand old field marshal won a victory.

Legionnaires at the Portland reunion in September can again sleep on army equipment if they want to. Senator Steiwer is putting a bill through Congress to authorize loaning the cots. It has passed the Senate. Oregon wants everybody to feel at home during the convention.

Milk is Safe Food

Dr. R. L. Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, said: "Nutrition is the most basic of all human responsibilities and the human race depends upon the good dairy cow for its permanence. Milk is a safe food."

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HOOVER'S WAGE PLAN

President Hoover's plan for a five-day week and payless vacations should be adopted in preference to the McDuffie program for a flat cut of 11 per cent in the salaries of federal employees. The cut can follow, if it becomes necessary, but the federal government should take this opportunity of encouraging the shorter working week.

In other words, if the federal government goes on a five-day basis, the movement in private industry will be given a boost, and the boost will be timely. It is better to have all our population employed part time than to have the lucky section laboring regular hours and the rest unemployed, frightened and gradually more desperate.

With long vacations and a five-day week there would be leisure which those with sufficient ingenuity could use for increasing their income. This also would be true in private industry. But where wages were cut without any reduction in hours, the unhappy worker would have no escape from the trap. He would lack time for making additional money, for growing a garden or whatever else he might desire to do to help himself and his family. It would seem the part of kindness and wisdom to cut the working week and increase the vacations before the direct cut is put into effect. City, county and state employees are more highly paid (in the order named), and are better able to stand the knife.—Oregonian.

GRASS GROWS SLOW IN JORDAN VALLEY

Sheaville—Warm rains and sunshine have taken off the snow except on the higher hills and north hill sides, but the nights are so cold that grass is making slow growth and feed is poor.

A great many bands of sheep are coming into the valley for late lambing and shearing. They will go on to the forest reserve.

Mr. Ebe was a business visitor at Sheaville Monday to see about shearing.

Mrs. J. S. Fenwick and little daughters were guests at the home of Mrs. Tressa Scott in Jordan Valley a few days last week.

Miss Elizabeth Scott was home from her school near Boise for a few days vacation last week.

The crew working on the Haines reservoir was laid off several days owing to breakdown of the caterpillar.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Haylett were in

Jordan Valley Monday. Dehorning, branding and irrigating are the chief occupations of the season as it is too wet for other farm work. Omar Stanford came home last week from Marsing where he has been feeding sheep at the Colin McLeod ranch.

George Howton of Caldwell, our regular vegetable man, was in the valley Tuesday on his way to California. Howton is going down over the I.O.N. and if the road will permit he will return this way with a load of fruit and vegetables.

Clyde Stults has been a visitor in Caldwell the past week.

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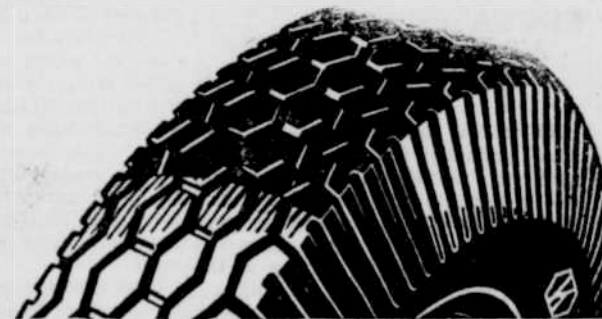
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