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WHY—OWYHEE CANYON DAYS?

Nyssa Commercial club is planning and preparing for Owyhee Canyon Days, the only yearly show of this sort which is designed for the purpose of raising funds for the

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upbuilding of the Owyhee project. Owyhee Canyon Days on May 11 and 12 is a fun show—for a colossal purpose. Two days of merriment for the bringing of new faces and new wealth into our midst.

Building up an annual event is not an easy task but the foundation has been well laid. In 1933 and 1932 the celebration went down in history as a success and provided funds for Nyssa's quota for the Vale-Owyhee land settlement association. It will do the same in 1934 if everyone lends a hand as they have in the past. It is your and my show, let's put it across. Let's make it bigger and better.

The same spirit prompts the giving of Owyhee Canyon Days as that which prompted the organization of the land settlement association away back in 1929. The bureau of reclamation agreed to build our projects—to construct dams and canals but how to colonize the lands with good settlers that was another problem, a job for local people who have the interests of their home city and county at heart. With the county and local units all lending a hand, the Vale-Owyhee is putting this project across. Letters go all over the country, visitors view our productive land, sales are made, the work of carving a home in the desert begins—but all of this takes money.

So celebrate—help colonize the Owyhee by taking in Owyhee Canyon Days in Nyssa May 11-12. Bring your friends and have a good time.

STEALING THE SHOW

Republican candidates for governor other than Rufus Holman had better wake up and get going if they expect to prevent Holman making a runaway out of what is supposed to be a political campaign. For Holman is crashing the front page all over the state day after day. If he stays there he will win the nomination hands down.

Some time ago we said that the candidate who put on the best show would win. The voters have become cynical about politicians. They take little stock in their issues or their promises. But they do want excitement. They will vote for a chap who is interesting, who can stir their blood. This may mean that democracy is degenerating and that we are ripe for dictatorship. We do not know. Probably it is a passing attitude that will change.

Holman is a good administrator, a sound business man, a leader in his church and a lot of other things that command respect of substantial people. But he owes his political strength to his gift for showmanship. You will notice that day after day he does something that wins him attention. One day it may be an indirect reference to Governor Meier as a "stuffed shirt." The next a hard crack at Budget Director Hanzen. Then a refusal to resign because that would be playing into the hands of the power trust. Always there is something to attract popular interest.

What other candidate even approaches him? On the record to date one must answer none. But Holman has rivals to whom the center of the stage is no stranger. Sam Brown of Marion county with his \$40 and a Ford campaign a la Alfalfa Bill Murray may get into the limelight. Senator Joe Dunne of Portland hasn't done much yet but he is no mean performer before the footlights. And old General MacAlexander, the "Rock of the Marne" has a gift for captivating the popular fancy. None of the others seem likely to make the grade in this respect, but the four mentioned should give us a good show.—Baker Democrat Herald.

TEARS AND FRUITS OF THE CCC

Only a year and a month ago fears were being expressed on Capitol Hill in Washington that President Roosevelt's new-fangled scheme for a system of forest camps for the unemployed would pull down wage rates, promote militarism and break up homes by taking youths away to work and live apart from their families.

This month the Civilian Conservation Corps is celebrating its first anniversary. Hundreds of letters of approbation are pouring in. Of all the new-deal agencies, this is receiving the widest acclaim and the least criticism.

The fears of a year ago seem far away. Organized labor hushed its protest against the \$1 a day wage when it saw how much this meant to 250,000 young men and their families who would otherwise be adding to the labor market or begging on the streets. President Roosevelt has been careful that there should be no drilling tactics, no gun practice to stir up a militaristic feeling. The \$30 a month sent home by the campers has enabled many families to stay together.

It is pleasant for observers to record that the CCC has made improvements in the forests and parks of the nation that would have taken ten years to achieve in normal circumstances. It is satisfying to see the campers return home with pounds gained and shoulders straightened. It is interesting to contemplate the good these young men can do in spreading lessons of conservation in their own communities.

But no one can tell the story of the CCC from the heart as can the youth himself who stands in the deepening twilight thinking of the good things it has brought him. One voices it thus:

My eyes stray until they rest upon the last tall pine on the hills, etched against the afterglow of the sun. And as it fades, the flood of memories closes in upon me—memories of the boy who wearily tramped the streets and sought death in the bitterness of despair. Happiness to him was something out of reach, something beyond the stars. I know now the serenity of soul that comes from a busy, well-ordered life. And happiness—well, happiness is here, not beyond, but beneath the stars.

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P. M. Warren

DAVE GRAHAM FINDS BIRD IN HAND WORTH TWO

Vale—(To the Journal)—I wonder if you would be kind enough to spare me a little space in your good paper? Because I am a candidate for the nomination on the Republican ticket for the office of congressman from the second district, I would like to say a few words on the matter of office-holding candidates running for nomination to other offices; one in which I happen to be interested.

According to an editorial in The Oregonian of April 14, friends have contributed "the name of David F. Graham, County Judge of Malheur County, also a candidate for congress" as being one of the Big Bad Wolves, because I have more than two years to serve in my present office; and I have read certain statements made by various candidates when resigning the same offices held by them, mostly non-paying, because they seemed to feel that by holding on to them while running for another office, their morals might be corrupted, or was it the Voters?

Since I have always been in the habit of speaking my mind, I would like to make my position clear in the matter. Candidly, I see no reason why I should resign the office I hold, nor feel ashamed for not doing so; and I see many reasons why I should stay right on the job, until I know just where I am. I said in my Statement to the Voters that I was running for the job because I wanted it as it paid much more than the one I have and because I actually believed I could fill it with credit to the district, the state, the nation and myself; that being the simple truth, and believing that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," I have no intention of resigning at this time; later, if necessary, the matter can be considered. The job is our bread-and-butter; we have a large family and jobs are not very easy to get these days, as you well know; besides, it is only the people of my own county who are concerned, anyway. Of course, I am acquainted with the theory which is advanced as a reason for office-holding candidates resigning, but frankly, I can't take any stock in same. Let me try to explain why; it is argued that by not resigning, the will of the voter is thwarted; that they are denied the right to choose their own representative to the office to be vacated. I wonder if it ever occurred to some of these modern King Arthurs, that if the office to which I aspire were one in private business instead of public, there would likely be a hundred or so active applicants for the same, instead of just two, the State Senator form Bend and myself; and that consequently, their choice is very limited; and also, that if I were to resign tomorrow, it is probable there would be a dozen or so after the office, and the Governor would have a much larger field to select from than the Voters did when I ran for the same.

Frankly, I am at a loss to understand, why all this Righteous Indignation, or should I say Hot Air? To me, it looks like "Much Ado About Nothing" and I am afraid that many people will be inclined to assume that the aforementioned candidates resigned as a matter of political effect rather than because their consciences were really hurting them, and that it was, more or less, nothing but grandstand play.

Personally, I resent the implications referred to in the statements of the said gentlemen and some of the said articles. If a man in public office can't be trusted to be fair and just at all times, then he has no right there, and it makes no difference how many offices he resigns when he is running for some other one. That is the matter in a nut shell.

The talk about resigning makes me smile. If the line of reasoning were carried out to its logical conclusion, it might be rather embarrassing. Incidentally, I cannot recollect that the President resigned as Governor of New York after he received the nomination to the Presidency on the Democratic ticket, or that any one suggested that

he should. It might mean that my worthy opponent, Jay H. Upton, should resign as State Senator from Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake Counties, because he holds over until 1937; that Walter M. Pierce, the present holder of the office should resign as Democratic National Committeeman for the State, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, while his estimable wife might give up her position as the absent member of the Board of Higher Education; and Ray W. Gill, who is running for State Senator from Clackamas, Columbia and Multnomah counties might resign as Master of the Oregon State Grange along with his fellow worker, Dr. Albert Slaughter, who is a candidate for State Representative from Multnomah county, and a member of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, and so on. I shall not bother mentioning the case of Rufus C. Holman, State Treasurer, save to say in passing that he seems to be the most cussed and discussed of all the candidates. As far as I am concerned, all candidates can hold all the offices they have while running for any other office they wish to; the only thing which counts is the sort of men they are and what they will do; not what they say or promise. Yours sincerely, DAVID F. GRAHAM.

LOTT D. BROWN

Attorney at Law

Nyssa, Oregon

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