

The Butte Daily Bulletin

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Everybody's News Stand, 218 S. Montana

THURSDAY, AUG. 28, 1919.

SIGN UP!

Come down to the Bulletin office and sign a monthly pledge

THAT \$250,000 BOND ISSUE.

Considerable hurrah has been raised recently by the Rotary club, the chamber of commerce and allied organizations over the proposal to bond the taxpayers of Silver Bow county for \$250,000 to be expended ostensibly in the construction of highways in this county. Much has been said about the fact that if the county taxpayers put up \$250,000 the United States government also will put up \$250,000, making the sum available a half million dollars.

Now, the Bulletin would like all roads to be smooth and "easy riding," for occasionally some friend a bit more favored in worldly goods than the editorial staff of this paper takes some member of the staff for an auto ride; but the question in our minds is, will the half million dollars be actually spent in the construction of roads, or will it just furnish another excuse for graft for our state and county officials?

We will admit that we have none too much confidence in the present board of county commissioners of Silver Bow county, and even less in the state administration, including the state highway commissioners and their engineers, and much fear, especially from past performances of our board of county commissioners, that but very little of the half million dollars will eventually find its way into the roads.

In connection with the publicity in favor of the bond issue, it may be noted by any observing person that the loudest boosters for the project are the commissioners themselves, who will have a hand in determining where such money as they may permit to go into the roads shall be spent, and who, quite naturally, are desirous of having a half million dollars to play with; the representatives of the various road machinery manufacturers, who will benefit through the sales of such machinery at the usual exorbitant prices, and such gentlemen as "Admiral" Carroll of "Dirty Water Harbor," ex-Mayor Charles Lane, Butte representative of the American Bridge company, who may be expected to get contracts for numerous steel bridges along the proposed roads; Jack Roche of the Montana Power company, D. J. Charles of the Miners' bank, and others of that ilk, who either may expect to benefit financially through the approval of the bond issue, or who own large pleasure cars and who object to the slightest bumps while enjoying themselves.

As for the average working man—he does not own even a second-hand flivver, probably being too busy at home figuring ways and means of making his small income cover both the cost of living and the exorbitant taxes he already must pay in order to keep his little home intact—and is not particularly anxious to bond himself to pay even higher taxes for many years to come, in order to permit the bridge and machinery manufacturers to sell more supplies, or to permit his employers to ride in greater comfort, or to give the alleged financiers on our board of commissioners another half million dollars to throw to the winds.

Extravagance is already the watchword in the commissioners' office at the courthouse, and we hesitate to even think of the saturnalia of spending that would ensue were our worthy incompetents on the board given an additional half million.

True, it may be said that the farming districts of Silver Bow, such as there are, would be benefited by the construction of additional good roads. But the amount of agriculture that is practiced in Silver Bow county is negligible, and for all the stuff that is hauled into Butte from the farms by wagon or auto, the present roadways, if the commissioners properly expended the sums already at their disposal for maintenance, are certainly sufficient. So far, too, we have yet to hear of the farmer—we bar such alleged farmers as Lieutenant Governor McBowell—who has voiced himself in favor of the bond issue.

The taxpayers of Silver Bow county are already overburdened with taxation, mainly through extravagance, incompetence and waste, on the part of our board of county commissioners, and we feel sure that when the special election of Sept. 2 occurs and the votes are counted, the plan of the commissioners and the road machinery and bridge contractors will be found to have been overwhelmingly defeated. Perhaps, if the profiteering merchants—all of whom apparently are in favor of the road bonds—were forced to lower their prices to a fair level; if the members of the Employers' association—all of whom, too, apparently are in favor of the bond issue—would raise the meagre wages paid to their employes, then, perhaps, the working people of the county, who make up the great bulk of the taxpayers, might see their way clear to undertake an additional burden of paying interest and principal on the \$250,000 bond issue. But as conditions are now, we predict the defeat of the bond issue by a vote which will include the ballots of every working man, working woman and farmer in the county.

MENACE OF MONOPOLY.

With all the talk of the control of food products by the packers, there are not many persons who realize the full extent of that control. The report of the federal trade commission has not been given the publicity it deserves, in view of the startling facts the report discloses.

Not only does the packers' combine dominate the domestic market, but, according to the federal trade commission, foreign trade is also rapidly coming under their control. In this connection the report says:

An approaching packer domination of all important

foods in this country and an international control of meat products with foreign companies seems a certainty. A fair consideration of the course the five packers have followed and the position they have already reached must lead to the conclusion that they threaten the freedom of the market of the country's food industries.

An international monopoly of food products! And yet, the administration speaks seriously of lowering living costs by throwing on the market the \$120,000,000 worth of food-stuffs in the hands of the war department! A dollars worth per capita.

The details of the packers control are interesting; they deal in 775 different commodities and own or control 762 subsidiary companies, this control being obtained by extra-legal methods in most instances.

The Big Five in 1916 handled 82.2 per cent of all the cattle consumed, 76.6 per cent of all calves and 86.4 per cent of all sheep.

In their cold storage plants they held about 70 per cent of the nation's visible supply of meats, divided as follows: Frozen beef, 95 per cent of the supply; ham and bacon, 61 per cent; salt pork, 69.8 per cent; pickled pork, 70.5 per cent.

It is easily seen that in meat products the Big Five have an absolute monopoly; their control of other food products is almost as effective.

They own 90 per cent of all refrigerator cars in the country and handle more than half of the butter, eggs and cheese sold in the United States. In 1916 they sold 1,000,000 pounds of poultry, 90,000,000 pounds of butter, 75,000,000 pounds of cheese and over 135,000,000 dozens of eggs.

Readers will remember the flood of articles in the public press at the time when the price of meat began to rise, urging the consumer to use less meat; the public was told to eat more cheese and like articles of diet; many substitutes were touted as understudies for meat, but prices continued to rise for the very good reason that they were also controlled by the same group that owned all of the meat. The packers care little what the food of the American people consists of. They control it all.

A list of commodities that the packers either now control or are rapidly gaining control of consists of the following articles of daily use: Breakfast foods, chicken feed, stock feed, fruit, canned vegetables, coal, fence posts, builders' hardware, binding twine, lumber, cement, lime, plaster, brick sand, gravel, roofing, soda-fountain supplies and rice.

The Big Five are closely associated with other powerful financial interests through banking connections and interlocking directorates. These interests dominate almost every line of endeavor. The report of the trade commission says:

The big packers have secured affiliations through stock ownership representation on directorates, and in other ways, with numerous banks and trust companies. Mr. Armour, Mr. Swift, Mr. Morris and Mr. Wilson are directors in banks affiliated closely with those who are strong at the sources of credit in the United States. Being thus allied with the powerful interest at the sources of credit, the packers' power is great, not only for financing their own national and international operations, but for affecting, for good or for ill, the credit of cattle producers and of competitors or customers in any line.

Some of Swift & Co.'s subsidiaries are growing tropical fruits in Hawaii, a subsidiary of Wilson & Co. (Inc.) has reached into the salmon fisheries of Alaska and a Morris concern cans shrimps taken in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The packers' nation-wide network of branch houses and "peddler car systems," built up in connection with their meat business, "assures them almost certain supremacy in any line of food handling which they may wish to enter." In certain lines they have become factors of great moment.

Armour's drive into the rice market in a single year is perhaps the most striking instance of their potentialities in this direction. Early in 1917 Armour & Co. first undertook the handling of rice and in that one year sold more than 16,000,000 pounds of rice, thus becoming, in a single move, on the statement of the vice president of the company, the greatest rice merchant in the world. During this period the wholesale price of rice increased 85 per cent.

The J. Ogden Armour mentioned above is one of the powerful group of imperialists that has-querade under the title of the American International corporation, an organization of the Morgans, Rockefellers, Ryans and other financiers formed to carry—with the help of a huge navy and a gigantic army—their products to the four corners of the earth.

The American International corporation owns ships and shipbuilding plants; it practically controls the export and import business in the United States and has subsidiary corporations in all lines of industry in every country on the globe; sugar plantations in Cuba, cattle ranches in Argentina and Uruguay, coffee plantations in Brazil, tea importing companies in the United States, copper mines in Chile, oil in Mexico, railways in China.

These powerful forces compel millions to exist in poverty and the golden stream of profit that flows into their treasuries may not diminish; they make war or declare peace as best suits their purposes; they control governments and make or break laws as they please. They are the real rulers of this nation.

It is on the workers that the burden bears most heavily; upon the workers also rests the responsibility of wresting the power over the lives of the masses from these insatiable cultures.

Industry must be socialized and production carried on for the purpose of satisfying the needs of society, instead of for the profit of a minority so small that their claims should be ignored.

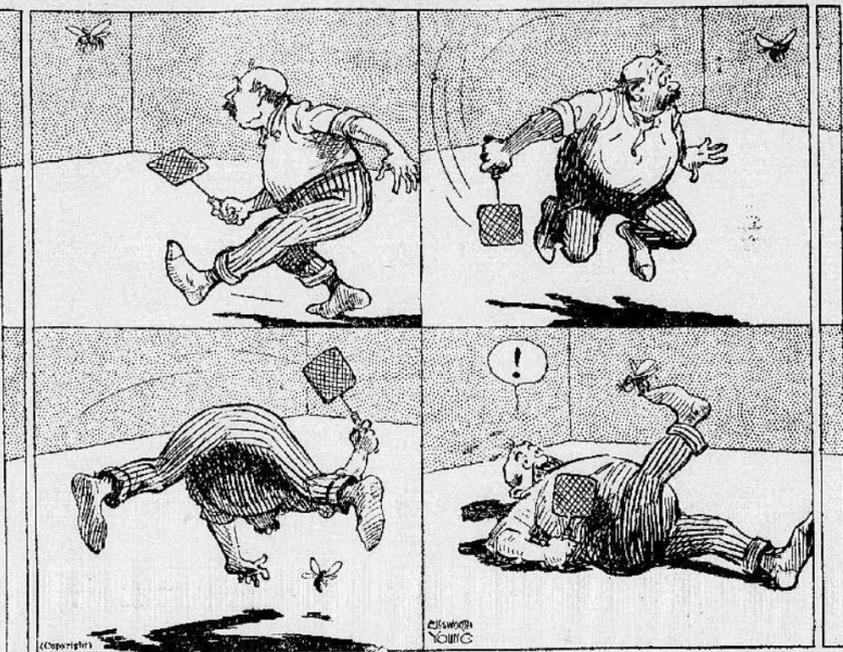
Half-way methods serve only to aggravate the evils they are supposed to cure and the rapidly increasing power of the industrial autocrats makes delay dangerous.

The question of whether or not it is already too late for a solution by peaceful means is a subject for serious consideration.

The news that spats will be more in style this winter than in the past, as brought to Butte by the buyer for a local shoe department, should be encouraging to Butte workers. An old pair of shoes, even low ones, can be camouflaged with a pair of spats to look stylish at least, even though the soles are out. And with shoes at present profiteering prices, and wages at the particularly low figure they are, it is more than likely that thousands of pairs of "holly" shoes will be worn in Butte this winter by the workers.

In addressing his latest message to his "fellow citizens" our ruler has given another touching proof of his love for democracy; in view of the existing facts, however, he would have come nearer the truth had he said, "To my subjects."

Summer Indoor Sport



GOOD NIGHT COLUMN

"THE MUCKER"



Dear Editor—You will be surprised to get another letter from me so soon. I really didn't intend to write again, as I expected to leave in a few days for Butte.

other trouble and decided a little help. I got a letter from him in yesterday's mail. He told me a whole lot of stuff about the Winnipeg strike, and believe me, I was pleased to hear from him. I never did understand why a bright intelligent girl like my sister married a dab like him, but I've got to hand it to her—she must have had an X-ray understanding of his mental worth. Way down underneath the outer layers of perished wood, where he usually wore a hat—was a spark of intelligence. The Winnipeg strike was all that was required to cause it to burn its way through to the surface. Some thing he's discovered is really is a workingman. He's class-conscious and you ought to read what he had to say about the One Big Union.

Go! I came almost forgetting my pessimistic spell after all. After I had transacted my business at the postoffice, I got interested in a bunch of Nonpartisan League, who were discussing the high cost of living and other important political questions, including the weather. I got so interested when the boss decided to go home, I told him I would walk back to the ranch later in the evening. I had a notion I would go up and see Hazel Nutt, but just about the time I got ready to run over and visit with her, I saw her get in a car with a phony-headed guy who works in the bank. His name I learned is Will R. Rich.

Now, I haven't any strings on Hazel, but you will understand I felt rather peeved the way things turned out, so after loafing around town a while, I struck out across the fields to the ranch. I hadn't traveled very far when it got dark on me, and as there was no moon, I had quite a time trying to keep on the trail. I finally reached the top of the ridge and it was a down hill pull the balance of the way. I was traveling along at a pretty good pace when I stepped into a badger hole, my ankle gave a sickening crack and down I went, and that wasn't the worst of it. When I been sick and they have had some

myself, and I felt a cold chill go up my back, my hair stood straight up on end and I snuffed a smell, believe me, I thought I had tumbled over the A. C. M. press. The odor was frightful.

I had to have a pair of light canvas shoes on with rubber soles and my foot was so badly wedged, I worked for over an hour trying to get out of my predicament. Luckily I was less than a quarter of a mile from the bunkhouse, so when I did get loose I managed to hop and hobble along on one foot until I reached it.

Fortunately I saw the only one using the bunkhouse at the present time, so I didn't annoy anyone by my presence.

Now I have been reading somewhere, that W. A. Clark has been quite successful in extracting an extra cent from the people of Butte for the privilege of riding on his street cars, if he puts up another hobler, just send me a line and I will be pleased to mail him my old duds. There is an extra scent about them he can extract if he is so confounded hard up.

Yours truly,
THE MUCKER.

AUTOISTS DISMISSED.

Because of the fact that George Grovich and Marco Misio were four blocks south of the city limits on Harrison avenue when the car in which they were driving crashed into another car and seriously injured Mrs. C. O. Magill and less seriously injured two others, the case of the city against the men, which is pending awaiting the outcome of Mrs. Magill's injuries, has not been dismissed.

TOURING PARK.

The following Butte people compose a touring party who are enjoying beauties of the national park: Dan Sloan, Mrs. Sam Pattinson, Mrs. N. Ferry, Mrs. Pete Rafferty and Miss Julia Rafferty.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Subscription Rates Are Going Up TO KEEP THE BULLETIN UP—

- For the purpose of helping to maintain The Daily Bulletin;
- For the purpose of helping to make The Daily Bulletin independent of advertising;
- For the purpose of having the subscribers bear a portion of the deficit under which The Bulletin unavoidably operates;
- For the purpose of continuing to fight for the people who toil;
- For the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of The Daily Bulletin.

Subscribers to The Daily Bulletin on and after Oct. 1, 1919, will be asked to pay the following rates:

One Month	\$1.00
Three Months	2.75
Six Months	5.00
One Year	9.50

The inauguration of the above rates on Oct. 1 will not affect subscriptions which have been paid in advance beyond that date at the old rate.

As The Daily Bulletin is conducted for the sole purpose of serving the people, and not for the benefit of those who exploit the people, the management feels sure that all the present supporters of this FREE PRESS will readily recognize the necessity for the increase in the subscription rates and continue their support.

THE BULLETIN STAFF.