

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL PAGE

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES: for in them ye shall find life: and they are they which testify of me.—John 5, 39.

THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH A SUNDAY SERMON.

Great men are not always wise, neither do the aged understand judgment.—Job xxxiii-9.

THUS spake Elihu, the son of Barachel, the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram, many thousands of years ago. He was a young man we are informed in the ancient chronicle of the woes of Job. He kept silence while Job and his three friends were discussing philosophy, religion, and the causes of things. So much the manners of the times called for because they were all older than he was. But he listened to the logic of these old men with much internal heat. He told them so. He said "I will answer also my part. I also will show my opinion. For I am full of matter. The spirit within me constraineth me. Behold, my belly is as wine that hath no vent. It is ready to burst like new bottles. I will speak that I may be refreshed. I will open my lips and answer."

And from that we may judge that the hot spirit of youth in Elihu was pretty well stirred up by the wisdom of old age as it was displayed by his three old companions and Job himself. If Job was the most patient man who ever lived, as we used to be taught in the Sunday school, certainly his friend, Elihu, the son of Barachel, the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram, was one of the most impatient. And in truth, old men are not always wise, especially when they compare the old days with the new and bewail the lapse in virtue of modern times. Have moral standards changed? The Denver Times asks the question and then hurries on to the belief that they have. "The kind of life led today by boys and girls, their general deportment, the way the girls dress and act are vastly different from what they were fifteen years ago. Then boys and girls held each other in mutual respect. Kissing and hugging were rare unless a couple were engaged. Girls wore more clothes and less paint. Vamps were not yet invented. Jazz was still unborn. Girls went to parties unrouged and were brought home unknissed. Boys took girls out riding and returned them without a hair pin missing. Yet there was no lack of fun and enjoyment. But compare the situation today." Then follows a terrible lecture on the boys and girls of today. We are sure this sorrowful picture must have been drawn by an old editor, and one whose memory of youthful days was treacherous. It is true that he only goes back fifteen years for his memory of the good old days when young women were coldly virtuous and young men priggish. But perhaps the writer was getting sentle. As long ago as Cleopatra reigned and loved in Egypt, the vamp was busy. Anthony found it out to his sorrow, while the "cold blooded Caesar," was on to her little game. And kissing and hugging doubtless had its origin and popularity as long ago as the time of the garden of Eden and the first man and woman. The Denver Times editor should study the wisdom of Solomon who once said, "say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these, for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

So this habit of condemning the new generation and bewailing its lapse from the virtues of the old has been going on ever since the great King of Israel sat on his golden throne in Jerusalem and entertained the Queen of Sheba, who was not as circumspect as she might have been at King Solomon's court, according to the tradition of her descendants in Abyssinia. In fact the editor of the Denver Times would have been shocked at that tale and been forced to admit that the old time girls were even less modest and puritanical than the girls of today in spite of dress and deportment. The Queen of Sheba, like the Queen of Egypt, was something of a vamp in her day.

The millenium is yet far away. Selfishness and wickedness flourish in the world of today as they did when the foundations of the earth were laid and "when the morning stars sang together." But the world progresses as its maker designed it to do and it moves upward in morals as well as knowledge and wisdom. We suppose the young people of today, when

they become the old people of fifty years from now, will be telling their children how much more modest and retiring the girls of today were than the generation of fifty years hence. They will be telling them how respectful they were to their parents, how industrious and virtuous they were, and how they despised hugging and kissing in 1921, except in very limited measure between married couples or engaged couples. It has been so for a thousand years, even in the time of Solomon who took note of the practice and condemned it.

The young generation is all right. It will fill its place in the world and do its work in the world as well as the generation that went before it, and a little better. And it will not change its ways because old age scolds at it and makes unkind comparisons between youth and age. That only makes them feel like Elihu, the son of Barachel—ready to burst. Youth goes on its way rejoicing regardless of the sour preachments of old men like the editor of the Denver Times. And by the way, we feel a good deal of sympathy for him. His lines were not cast in pleasant places in his youth if he believes there was no hugging and kissing going on between boys and girls in those days. His experience has been sterile.

Times change. Costumes change. Styles change, but old human nature goes on much the same all the time. But the generations that live now are stronger than of old. They are cleaner. They are more altruistic, more tolerant, wiser than their forefathers. This is true because evolution moves forward rather than backward, and the world and its people move forward in morals as well as in wisdom and physical beauty.

"Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these, for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

FEES AS A SOURCE OF REVENUE.

WE note that the ways and means committee at Helena have reported a bill to the house of representatives raising the marriage license fee from \$2.50 to \$5.00. This suggests a means of increasing revenues that might well be followed out extensively. Fees are not properly speaking, taxes. They are charges made to individuals for a specific service rendered to them. The marriage license fee might well be raised to \$10.00 instead of five. Any man or woman who wants to get married ought to be willing to pay a ten dollar bill for the license and registration of the marriage. There might also be a fee charged for the filing of a decree of divorce and it might well be made twice as high as the marriage license fee. The filing of deeds and transfers ought also to be raised. Litigants who enter courts in civil cases demand a service from society that costs a good deal of money. When a citizen files a complaint in a civil case which will later entail a good deal of expense to the taxpayers, he has no good ground for complaint if he is charged a good sized fee for filing his case. A whole lot of money could be raised by a revision upwards of the legal fee system.

We have it in mind that the supreme court of Montana has decided that a license is not a proper exercise of the taxing power of cities at least. It is a police power and not a revenue raising or taxing power. Our recollection is that a good many years ago when the city of Missoula found itself in bad financial shape and undertook to fill its city treasury by imposing a lot of high licenses on various kinds of business and professions this decision was rendered and the city ordinance held invalid because it sought to raise revenue under the guise of licenses. The city, however, has very limited powers of legislation, and the legislature is the real law-making power. Perhaps it would have authority to raise revenue by the issuance of licenses apart from its police powers. Here is another source of revenue that could be worked by the state without any great hardship on anyone. The distinction between fees and licenses ought to be kept in mind. The fee is payment for a special service rendered to an individual citizen, and the license is a permit to do something under the supervision of the government.

By increasing to a moderate extent, fees and licenses issued by the state, a great deal of extra money could be put in the state

treasury. A bill is already introduced raising the license charge for operating automobiles. Why not add also to the cost of other state licenses and provide for a few new ones?

We assume that it is necessary for the state to get more money and that we cannot restore the finances of the state by economy in expenditures. That assumption is not well founded because it would be quite possible to cut out enough expense to meet the situation if the legislature had the Spartan virtue to do it. But we don't think it has, or that any legislature is likely to have that virtue, so the only other course to pursue is to collect more money from the pockets of the people in some way. Our idea is that it can be done better through higher fees for services rendered to individual citizens and higher license rates, than by increasing taxes on property, or creating new taxes on production which are unsound theoretically, and practically act as a check on production. No one would think for a moment of putting a tax of a cent a bushel on wheat or oats raised in the state. It is equally wrong from the economic and practical point of view to put a tax of ten cents a ton on coal raised from the land.

The state has plenty of revenue resources without resorting to such errors as production taxes. We hope that the legislature will come to see that this is true and increase the revenue of the state in more legitimate ways if it must be increased.

The SPIRIT OF AMERICA

DAILY EDITORIAL DIGEST

Prepared Exclusively for The Tribune.

Today's Subject:

HOW BIG IS A LITTLE ARMY?

Any hope of a further reduction in the size of the American army seems to have disappeared if the press correctly represents the view of the public. A Congress accepted the figure of 150,000 men when that figure seemed to be the decision of congress but when it was finally announced that 150,000 men were to be maintained in the army, a number of voices were raised in protest that this was not enough.

The Greenback (N. C.) News (Ind.) declares that the General Pershing bill has flatly refused to associate itself with the only international organization looking to the eventual reduction of the army to 100,000 men. "The business of the country to look to its own defense," and "the job of defending as far-flung a nation as this one calls for a million men." The Indianapolis News (Ind.) is somewhat more moderate in its demand. "An army of 200,000 men," it says, "would be a moderate force, smaller, in all probability, than we would be expected to maintain even as a member of the league of nations. The recommendations of the General Pershing bill are not only a waste of money, but they are a source of national embarrassment. The military committee of the senate, all of which were overruled, are surely entitled to respectful consideration."

Turning attention to the fact that the chief duty of the army is garrisoning our possessions which suggests the probability that 150,000 men "may be needed to defend the United States," the Chicago Tribune (Ind. Rep.) calls it "fool's economy" to reduce the army "below the strength necessary for the defense of the United States." It concludes: "Does not the present instance does not know whether it has provided enough troops even for garrison duty in American outposts and it does not care. It has acquired merit with the classes named (citizens who hate their taxes) and it has not hurt itself politically. It may be bad for the country but it is not bad for congress."

The Atlanta Mirror (Ind.) after reviewing the conditions of "turmoil" in the world and stating that "the Great Powers are not disarming" makes the ironical comment that "the general Pershing bill is a good deal more than set at 200,000. But of course, he's only a soldier, and knows nothing about politics." The Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.) also reminds its readers that "the world situation is not yet such as would permit the United States to revert to its pre-war state of unpreparedness." The New Orleans Times Picayune (Ind. Dem.) is less emphatic in its objections to the action of congress and admits that it "cannot judge" whether the question of economy or military needs should have the greater weight.

The Chicago Post (Ind.) considers that the voted 150,000 would be "sufficient to look after the Philippines, the Panama Canal, and the United States," but "on the basis of a semi-assured peace, beyond this much, nothing." Congress, it adds, "notes unpreparedness." The therefore "notes unpreparedness." The therefore "notes unpreparedness."

Both the Florida Times-Union (Dem.) and Lebanon (Verm.) D. consider the bill, the former on the argument that "before the war the United States maintained an army of 150,000 men, and the condition for the army with a simultaneous reduction for the agriculture department, an example of legislative stupidity which would be hard to equal."

The Haskin Letter

By FREDERIC HASKIN

SOME IMMIGRATION FACTS.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 25.—Anywhere from ten million to twenty-five million people, according to various estimates are literally standing in line in Europe waiting for a chance to come to America, according to Commissioner of Immigration Wallis of New York.

Mr. Wallis recently gave the senate committee on immigration a succinct and startling account of the immigration situation, of which few words have heretofore been published. The gist of his facts are therefore here set forth. In Danzig he says that people are standing in line by thousands on the boats, and that they are camped all about the port of embarkation, waiting their turns. The steamship companies report that they are offered ten times as much business as they can handle. Most of these immigrants have sold everything they possessed in order to raise enough money to pay for a passage to this country, and they are waiting to be admitted when they arrive. They pay from \$110 to \$160 for a steerage passage to the United States, which is more than a first class passage in a few years ago. The immigrant carrying business is said to be very remunerative to the steamship companies.

Many of the immigrants tell of being robbed at the port of embarkation, and that they are camped all about the port of embarkation, waiting their turns. The steamship companies report that they are offered ten times as much business as they can handle. Most of these immigrants have sold everything they possessed in order to raise enough money to pay for a passage to this country, and they are waiting to be admitted when they arrive. They pay from \$110 to \$160 for a steerage passage to the United States, which is more than a first class passage in a few years ago. The immigrant carrying business is said to be very remunerative to the steamship companies.

Most of these destitute immigrants claim that they expect money here from friends, relatives, or societies, and most of them are, in the course of time rescued by some of their compatriots in this country. But mention the name of Ellis Island, and the island has no accommodations for such a swarm of people. They are compelled to sleep on the floors, and until recently many of them had to sleep without blankets. There are no adequate toilet facilities or facilities of any other kind.

Furthermore, these almost destitute people have in some instances no money with which to pay for their passage. Mr. Wallis reported several letters that he had had from the west asking for immigrant labor at good wages. But he has no suggestion as to how to get an employment agency. He believes that the labor department is now taking some steps to distribute these immigrant laborers where they are needed, and that it is a matter of fact, they have practically none. The United States employment service, since the armistice, has been reduced to a skeleton organization.

Mr. Wallis does not believe that the situation is to be relieved by the passage of a law like the Johnson bill prohibiting all immigration with certain exceptions, such as the blood relatives of those already here, for a year. He believes that the exceptions, and out of them, would more than fill the boats—that we would get about the same amount of immigration, but that it would consist mostly of women and children. He seems to believe that either all immi-

gration should be stopped, without exceptions, until legislation regulating immigration in a scientific way can be passed; or else immigration should be allowed to run along as it is until final legislation can be passed.

Boats Limit Immigration. Mr. Wallis points out the important fact that the amount of immigration which we can receive is limited by the number of persons which the ships can carry. He estimates that only 300,000 immigrants can be carried in the trans-Atlantic passenger traffic in non-immigrant—that is, it consists of people who intend to return to their native country, or of Americans returning from Europe. In this way it is seen that our immigration is self-limited to less than a million a year, barring what comes in over the Mexican and Canadian borders. Of course, inasmuch as the carrying of immigrant passengers is now a highly remunerative business, it is probable that more ships will be built in the future, but the increase in the immigration stream, which will result from this, will be slow.

Pick the Best. The situation, therefore, as Mr. Wallis sees it, is that out of ten million aliens who want to come to the United States in a given year, only one million can come by reason of the limitations of the carriers. He argues that our manifest duty is to choose this million with the utmost care—to see that the 10 per cent of the preferred population which we take is before the 90 per cent and not the worst or middling. He points out that a considerable part of the immigration now coming in consists of large, strong, healthy people with enough money to take care of them for some time. Others are sickly, undersized paupers. He argues that legislation should be drafted which will insure that this large, healthy, thrifty type get in and that the sickly paupers be kept out. Since we cannot take them all anyway, why not take the best? Mr. Wallis does not suggest the nature of the regulation by which this selective process might be accomplished; he puts that up to congress. He does suggest that the present laws are inadequate, especially the literacy test. He points out that a man should be able to read 40 words and yet be a very poor specimen of the human race.

Choose in Europe. Mr. Wallis further believes that this selective process should begin on the other side—that it is foolish and cruel to let the immigrant come to this country and then send him back. He believes that an arrangement of this kind should be made through diplomatic channels. Some of the senators brought out the fact that an attempt had once before been made to effect such an arrangement diplomatically, and that all the nations but Italy and China had objected. No reason in law or common sense could be given for why we should not be able to receive immigration on our own terms or reject it altogether.

Mr. Wallis further believes that to make any regulation of immigration effective the inspectors must be high grade men. He points out that such men cannot be obtained at the salaries which are now paid, ranging from \$2,400 to \$2,800 a year. He points out that these inspectors practically decide human destinies and that men of education and intelligence are required. He believes that intelligent immigration legislation should provide some machinery by which the immigrant is aided to find a job. A competent connection with the immigration offices at each port of entry, which simply received applications for laborers, and listed opportunities generally, would be a great benefit to the immigrant and for the country to which he comes.

A clerkyman declared that college students of today are not nearly so wild as those of a generation or more ago. They will bring an indignant protest from undergraduates all over the country.—New York Evening Post.

"Kills Greaser for \$13." The price has gone down considerably since the time we were figuring on it about a year ago.—Kansas City Star.

Burglars missed a Missouri man's roll because it was in the pocket of his other pair of trousers. Which shows the advantage of having another pair of trousers.—Nashville Banner.

The University of Cincinnati is to have a tanning department. Boy, page the o. f. schoolmaster.—Nashville Tennessean.

Several eminent Americans have volunteered to investigate conditions in Cuba at their own expense.—Vancouver Province.

Some of the visitors at Marion, Ohio, are suspected of issuing advertisements "Advice given" when what they really mean is "Situation Wanted."—Washington Star.

Gilbert Chesterton is now in New York, and New Yorkers are pointing proudly to the fact that he's not even dead as Irvin Cobb.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Price reduction is said to be spread over the entire world. Perhaps that is why it is so nearly imperceptible by the individual.—Boston Transcript.

Scientific Facts

China has more ducks than all the rest of the world put together. Operated by a lever six feet long, a new screw jack lifts loads of 74 tons. High prices have led to an increase in the diamond production of British Guiana. A spring wire clip which holds a cup securely on the edge of a plate has been patented.

The government of China is planning to make some 10,000 postoffice telegraph offices. An electric motor similar to those used with drills operates a new straight motion hand saw. A substitute for jute has been found in the Russian kenaf plant, which grows prolifically.

A combination of spirit tube and pendulum enables a new level to be used to measure angles accurately. Searchers for petroleum in Ecuador have found promising indications at several points in the republic. A single pull removes a new leggin, which is attached to a wearer's leg with snap fasteners and a spring clip. Electricity obtained from Swedish waterfalls provides about one-half of the mechanical power used in that country.

A Minnesota plant is drying and powdering buttermilk, in which form it keeps indefinitely without refrigeration. The island of Mauritius is singularly free from thunder storms, several years sometimes passing before one occurs. With his printing press an Illinois inventor claims to be able to print with 96 different colors at the same time.

For use on light automobiles a gearless differential depending entirely upon friction has been developed in Europe. To lessen the danger of forest fires a non-inflammable and non-smouldering wad for shotgun shells has been invented. After more than half a century of service in a church in China an organ with bamboo pipes still is in good condition.

A chemical treatment has been invented for tanning coarser skins and lengthening their life and resistance to decay. Applying electric currents to the base of the brain, a Berlin physician has found a way to give sleep to the sleepless. Erected over a frame of steel tubing, a Wisconsin inventor's tent is claimed to be as substantial as any portable house.

Camels imported from Asia have been tried in Australia with fair success for hauling wagons in regions lacking rainfall. Almost automatic in operation is a new tool for tying wires used to hold steel reinforcing bars together for concrete work. Machinery has been perfected in England to measure the amount of shrinkage a textile undergoes in the process of finishing.

Substantial cash prizes have been offered for the best designs of airplanes able to carry 50, 100, 150 and 200 tons of cargo. One of the Federated Malay States is planning to foster the production of the African oil palm by granting land to planters. Beans planted in corn fields can be gathered with a new harvesting machine narrow enough to be driven between the rows of corn.

In an English city street cars are being used as traveling kitchens in which meals are cooked, served and served to the public. Alaska's mineral production last year is officially estimated at \$2,070,000, making the territory in excess of \$60,000,000. Leather made in India from lizard skins is being used for women's and children's shoes and articles formerly requiring calf skin or kid.

For motor truck owners there has been designed a compact device to record the cost of operating a truck in terms of material, time and distance. A flux harvesting machine of English invention seizes the grain in bunches, digs its roots from the soil and conveys it to one side, while the woman is the patentee of a long handled implement for passing over wall paper a lump of material which removes all dust and dirt from the paper.

Sending Money

For sending money to cities in this country, we will give you a bank draft. When money goes to large foreign cities, a foreign draft is the thing. To send money to small hamlets where there are no banks, a post remittance is what you want.

If in haste to have funds reach points in the U. S. or abroad, we'll use telegraphic transfer. On all the above we can give best rates and prompt delivery.



Nyals' Face Cream

LAPEYRE BROS. DRUG STORE



WORLD OF INDUSTRY

GOSSIP OF THE TOILERS

A Review of the Latest News from Workshop, Mill and Mine. Cigarmakers won the eight-hour day in 1886. Canada has 76 textile mills employing about 700 workers. Sixty-five per cent of the workers in Pittsburgh are organized.

Sugar plantation laborers in Hawaii have been refused a raise in wages. Mineral production in Canada during 1920 reached a total of \$200,000,000. Paper factories in Switzerland employ between 3,000 and 4,000 workmen. About 10,000 people are now employed in the toy industry in the United States.

The sugar industry of Bulgaria is limited to the production of beet sugar. More than 13,000 women are employed in the various departments of the British government. In Toronto, Canada, the manufacturers have broken their agreement with the Cloak Makers' union.

Commercial printers in Tacoma, Wash., have received an advance in wages of \$3 per week. The raw material used in Spanish wool manufacturing industries is largely a domestic product. Industrial conditions in Great Britain are growing worse and production is at the lowest in years.

The total number of people employed by the British government in 1914 was 77,000 more than it was in 1914. Idle employees of the Ford Motor company in Detroit have made a proposition to take over the plant and operate it.

American Bank & Trust Co. of Great Falls

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