

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

W. M. Bole, Editor O. S. Warden, Manager Leonard G. Dahl, Business Manager EDITORIAL PAGE

A Daily Bible Thought HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST—Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.—Philippians 2:5, 3.

BUY EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS.

EVERY year the retail merchants who deal in Christmas goods urge their customers to buy early in their advertising. Their argument is good both from the standpoint of their own interest and the customer's interest. If they can sell their Christmas goods early, before the rush begins, they can give their customers better service and a wider choice of stock and save themselves extra help and much strain in the last days of Christmas buying. The customer will also save himself or herself a good deal of nervous strain.

One factor that militates against early Christmas buying cannot be overlooked however. It is lack of cash. The head of the family who furnishes most of the cash for buying Christmas gifts has had a pretty strenuous time lately, and he is likely to be financially broke, or very near it. Repeated drives for money for some charitable purpose or public service have connected with his pocketbook all through the year, and as a rule his income has been on a smaller scale than formerly. Perhaps his wages have been reduced or his days of employment shortened. Or if he does not work for fixed wages, but for business profits, they have even more surely decreased, sometimes almost to the vanishing point. Then he has been obliged to buy coal or other fuel to keep warm through the winter and perhaps warm clothing for himself and family. And on top of all this he has been in receipt of an urgent letter from the tax collector warmly inviting him to call before the last day of the month and pay a tax bill bigger than he expected, and probably bigger than it ever was before. Oh yes, the Christmas gift giving season finds the head of the family in anything but a Christmas mood about this time and we have not the heart to blame him much at that. Possibly he has announced in a stern voice that Christmas gifts are off this year or greatly reduced in cost, but wife and family do not believe him. He does not believe in his ultimatum himself. He knows very well that his little ones are not going to be disappointed, or the grown ups of the family either for that matter. He will come through if it takes a leg. But he can't put up now. He will have to let a few pay days pass before he digs up. The advice to buy early is not for him.

But the head of the family who has the money, and will spend it anyway before Christmas eve rolls around, ought to do it now and get out of the other fellow's way. He can help him out that much anyway. And in many cases he can help out the postoffice clerks and the railroad agents by early mailing of presents besides early buying. Most people aim to mail their Christmas presents to absent friends just in time so they will get them Christmas eve. And in so doing they often fail in their purpose, because so many people have done the same thing that there is a congestion of business in the postoffice and on the mail cars that it is impossible to handle promptly, and their gift arrives at its destination after Christmas day has gone by—sometimes several days late. Now most people who receive Christmas gifts through the mail would rather get them a few days before Christmas than a few days after Christmas. Therefore mail your Christmas gifts a few days before the date which you find would in the ordinary course bring them to the recipient by Christmas eve. By doing so you will not only serve your own interest but you will help out overworked clerks in the postoffice and the railway express service.

The giving of gifts at the Christmas season proceeds apace in spite of all preschisms against it. These latter are not very numerous. Most people like the custom even when they rant against it. It was originally designed as an expression of joy over the coming of a redeemer

of the world in fulfillment of the predictions of the prophets of old. Perhaps it is not so much a religious festival as it once was, but surely this idea has not perished from the world, and the thought must present itself to many minds that there are millions of little children in many sections of the world today who are looking for redemption from the pangs of hunger. They expect no toys, but are hoping for a full belly on that day. And wherever such child hunger exists the world the eyes of the little ones are turned toward America, the one country in the world where there is plenty to eat, and where the citizens have the will to send of their abundance to them.

A SALES TAX.

SENATOR SMOOT is authority for the statement that his proposed sales tax, as a substitute for the present complicated and absurd revenue bill, is by no means dead, and will be brought up again in this congress for consideration. Senator Smoot voted for the present tax law but he swallowed the dose with a very wary face. It is an open secret in Washington that a majority of the Republican senators did in fact favor a sales tax, but voted it down because of the bad political effect that would follow wrangling for seven months over the revised revenue bill and then tossing it into the waste basket and adjourning with nothing done. The political effect must be bad enough as it is. Henry Ives Cobb, chairman of the Committee on Taxation Public Revenue, of the Merchants' Association of New York, talks about the present measure in these caustic words:

"The present income tax laws are so stupidly complicated that no one understands them, and no two government officials agree on their interpretation. Citizens are wasting upward of \$500,000,000 a year in futile attempts to supply the government with information on which the government is wasting many millions vainly endeavoring to make the returns fit the laws. Besides this enormous direct waste of over one-half billion of dollars the hopeless attempts to make an unworkable law operate causes endless inexcusable annoyance and indirect expense. All of this is added to the price the consumers pay for the support of the government. In the meanwhile the government is running a preparatory school for income experts who are passing along by hundreds to sell the training received from the government in the more lucrative positions of preparing tax returns. "One of the distressing but most notable results of the present unworkable income tax laws is that there are now about \$2,000,000,000 of unadjusted tax returns, many over three years old, and not including the tax returns of this year. Also a large proportion of citizens pay no income taxes at all, or only a small portion of their just and fair share of the cost of the benefits they derive from the government. "An impossible situation is created wherever the government, disregarding the functions for which it was created, enters into competition with citizens or joins them in partnership, made worse by its only sharing in profits. Making it impossible to estimate cost in advance is probably the most fatal of all the fundamental principles of business so recklessly disregarded in the construction of the present income tax laws, as, although most enterprises, are based on taking the risk of selling price all the items of cost must be available or the proposed undertaking is impossible. "All the income tax material in the present revenue laws is so hopelessly twisted and contorted and full of hidden weakness that it should be buried in the scrap heap and not allowed to contaminate whatever it touches. "There remains but one more material available for the construction of revenue laws which is a tax on business, commonly called sales taxes. Such a tax has always been the principal material used in the construction of the revenue laws of this country, but the old material used in the present revenue laws is so contorted and twisted, so full of knots and flaws of all kinds, hidden and apparent, that it is far more economical to throw it all away and use new material that is unquestionably sound to the core. "Regarding the principles underlying a sales tax Mr. Cobb says: "The greatest service rendered by this government to the citizens is assisting them in their labor of

The Haskin Letter

By FRIDERICK J. HASKIN

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE

Washington, D. C., Nov. 21.—Although both the British and the Japanese are still putting forth propaganda on behalf of a renewal of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, it seems to be now the general opinion that it will not be renewed and that its termination will be a great factor in establishing peace on a sound basis in the far east.

That the Japanese want this alliance and that it would be an advantage to them in the future as it has been in the past is obvious. Japan's career of economic and military imperialism, which has carried her into Siberia, Manchuria and China, has been made possible largely by this British support. If this alliance were continued on the same terms, Japan's imperialistic career could continue and the militaristic forces in that country would be strengthened. If the alliance is genuinely renounced by Great Britain, and Great Britain is genuinely in accord with the United States in Asiatic policy, Japan's imperialistic career will be most effectively curbed. She will face a combination against which she cannot possibly hope to prevail. The liberal forces in Japan will be strengthened.

This curbing of Japan's militaristic career therefore stands out with increasing clearness as the great object of the conference. Its accomplishment will be a long step toward international peace, in the opinion of the best-informed observers, provided it can be done without alienating all Japanese in the east. There is a strong opinion in Japan that the British government has renounced the alliance solely by reason of her military and naval strength. She has seen every other Asiatic nation exploited and robbed of autonomy and her rights in commerce by nations. Her faith in the big stick is based upon logic and experience. That is why the liberal forces in Japan rally behind the government immediately when an emergency arises. Japan must be convinced therefore, not only that her present course in China, Manchuria and Siberia must be abandoned, but also that her integrity and autonomy and her rights in commerce will be respected. If Japan goes away disgruntled and suspicious, nothing much has been accomplished for the cause of peace.

Why England Wants Alliance. It is easy enough to see why Japan wants the alliance with England, but not so easy to see the basis of the English desire for it. The English government originally considered it necessary to offset the menace of Russia to its Asiatic empire. With Russia a great imperialistic power, Great Britain really needed a strong Asiatic ally. With Russia out of the game of empire, she does not need such an ally. Doubtless Japan is still useful to her by doing her naval police work in Asiatic waters, but it has been announced that Great Britain will have an Asiatic fleet of her own in the future, so this work is evidently no longer to be entrusted to Japan. Moreover, Japan, it is stated in many quarters, has steadily injured British prestige in China, for the Chinese have no confidence in any power allied with Japan. What, then, is the purpose in Asia that Japan and England still have in common? One well-informed observer says that it is a purpose which neither

of them can afford to state in public, and which certainly will never be mentioned at the conference. That common purpose is to suppress the rise of democracy in the east. Democracy in Asia is ruled by an oligarchy. Its constitution and its parliament are alike of little effect in its affairs. The republican spirit and class consciousness of the Anglo-American world is growing. India, for example, is on the verge of revolution. If one Asiatic republic is strengthened, the republican spirit will be strengthened in all parts of the continent. The spread of the doctrine from China to India, by way of the Philippines.

Japan and Great Britain then, undoubtedly have in common the purpose of holding the undeveloped Asiatic peoples in subjection and of preventing the spread of democratic doctrine among them. The increase of American prestige in the world is the object of the democratic ideal there. The United States will undoubtedly try to help China set up a successful republican government.

In this fundamental respect, therefore, Great Britain's interests are those of Japan rather than those of the United States—that is, those of the British imperial government are those of the United States. The growing mass of liberal opinion in England which is sympathetic to the American point of view. But the British empire as such can maintain itself only if, at all, by suppressing the rise of democratic ideals in the orient.

It is for this reason that we see in the newspapers articles of British inspiration speaking on behalf of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. There is a strong opinion in the United States that this alliance need not be at all inimical to the United States. In the second place it is suggested that the alliance be made a tripartite agreement to include the United States. All of this argument, say the experts, is specious. An alliance between Japan and England would inevitably work against the United States in the far east, whatever the stated terms.

The proposed tripartite agreement would merely have the effect of tying the hands of the American government. It is probable, however, that this latter proposition need not be taken seriously because it is practically certain that the United States senate would not ratify any such tripartite agreement. Likewise the Anglo-Japanese alliance can be broken at any time by the United States. Great Britain may want it for the reason stated above, but she does not want it badly enough to risk a serious break with the United States over it. It is probable that the Japanese know that they can count on British support in the conference, on this and other points, just so long as that support does not alienate the United States. The physical and financial power to enforce its point of view, if only it is not out-talked, as it was at Versailles.

making a living and the undisturbed enjoyment of the fruits of their labor. All citizens make their living by selling something they have to others. The services rendered by the government are automatic, regardless of what may be sold. Every time anything is transferred from one citizen to another the government renders services in many ways, including protection against cheating and dishonesty of all kinds. "All citizens reap the benefits of the services the government renders in all changes of ownership, and no citizen can live without constantly receiving such services, so there can be no better material to use in a revenue law, and it only remains to distribute the tax according to the fundamental principles of our government, that each shall pay his share, and only his share. "The present taxes on business, or sales taxes, would be ludicrous if they were not so serious to those who pay them, and to the general welfare of all. "Utterly devoid of any regard for sound economics, our form of government, or the future of our industries, the present sales taxes, which apply to about one hundred classes, involving many hundreds of items, each with its varied rate of taxation read like the price list of some charity rummage sale. "Some thought of luxuries, final consumer, origin of production and other theories impossible of practical application, may have been considered in connection with some of them, but most of them apparently just happened. "It makes no difference to the government as far as a revenue law is concerned what is sold by one citizen to another. It may be a pair of shoes, a bushel of wheat, an ice cream soda, a diamond necklace, a bone collar button, manual labor, mental labor, insurance, rental of premises for years or a chair for an hour, transportation of all kinds of persons or goods, light, heat, an article in a newspaper, or the newspaper itself, or the use of space in a newspaper, an opinion on future life, the services of cutting off a leg, and so on, covering everything of every kind and nature that one citizen sells to another. "It is utterly impossible to separate into classes or groups and preserve the principles upon which our government is founded. "The government can prepare a sufficiently accurate estimate of

the total amount involved in all transfers from one citizen to another, and for the purposes now before us it can be assumed to be \$250,000,000,000. A tax of 1 per cent will yield \$2,500,000,000. "The extreme tax rate on all business of 1 per cent is necessary at this time, as not only must the cost of the war be paid but the total business of the country has been so shattered that the amount to be taxed is abnormally small and constantly growing less. "An immediate major operation is required on our revenue laws—a fearless cutting away of all diseased tissues created by quack medicine. It is not enough that sticking plaster and bandages be used to keep those laws going because their present timid nurses fear they may lose their jobs, while an ever-increasing number of citizens, already counted by the millions, are being deprived of the opportunity to earn an honest living."

Divide Hunters Lost in Mountain Snows Special to The Tribune. Corvallis, Nov. 25.—Fay Burrell and Dan Wylie, youths of this place, are lost in the mountains at the head of the Skalkaho, where they went to hunt deer. The boys packed in, and turned the horses loose to come home. The horses came in several days ago. The parents express no uneasiness as they believe the boys will remain at camp until someone takes horses in to break the trail. The snow was two feet deep on the divide Sunday, and the storm since has increased to double that depth. Both Wylie and Burrell are experienced hunters and thoroughly familiar with the Skalkaho country. Darby also has his share of men caught in the storm. A relief party has been sent out to search for Harold Lowman and George Hartsill, who left here last week only lightly provisioned for a hunt in the Ryer Creek mountains. Ed and Archie Barrill came in Tuesday night from near Allen station on the west fork and reported a hard trip. James Kerlee is at his place here in the Salmon mountain country and has not been heard from, though he is well supplied with provisions.

New Fiscal Agent Is on Forestry Post Special to The Tribune. Missoula, Nov. 25.—Oscar M. Wolf, fiscal agent of district No. 4 of the United States forest service, has arrived in the city from Madison, Wis. He will succeed H. I. Loving, who has been transferred to Washington, D. C. Mr. Loving leaves in the near future to assume his duties as chief of the office of accounts, succeeding M. E. Fagan.

Irrigation Dragger Housed for Winter Special to The Tribune. Poplar, Nov. 25.—The dragline excavator which has been used by the reclamation service throughout the summer on the Poplar river division has been moved into town, where it will be held until needed on some other project. The machine has been used to clean the Poplar East Side canal. From April to November it excavated 33,000 cubic yards of material from the canal at a cost of 17 cents per yard.

Chinook Conditions Keep on Thawing Snow Helena, Nov. 25.—Chinook conditions, with thawing temperatures, continue in Montana, especially in the western portion. The lowest temperature reached at Helena Thursday night was 30 above. Other temperatures at 6 o'clock Friday morning were: Billings, 8; Havre, 7; Kalispell, 32; Miles City, 4; Missoula, 28; Yellowstone park, 30.

Grass Range Light Plant Planned by G. E. Special to The Tribune. Lewistown, Nov. 25.—J. G. Campbell and C. S. Morash, of the General Electric company, are planning to put in an electric lighting plant at Grass Range, where it is expected that the plant will be in operation in about a month or six weeks.

A light weight English automobile has a frame composed of two fan trusses that carry the gear box at their apexes, the engine being mounted on a bulkhead between the front wheels. Afghanistan is deforested.

GEM THEFT BALKED BY ALERT EXPRESS AGENT; PIN STOLEN

After Game Failed at Rural Station, Jeweler Is Tricked by Nerry Bandit. Special to The Tribune. Dillon, Nov. 24.—Earl Esco, agent for the American Express company believes in hushes. Last Tuesday the agent had a hunch not to turn over a package of valuable jewelry to a man who gave the name of Brenner and they stayed at Rose, approximately \$300.

On a recent day, a strange man swaggered into the jewelry store of Rose in Butte; introduced himself as Wm. Brenner, a relative of J. C. Brenner, prominent stockman of this county, and stated that he was known as the cattle king of Horse Prairie. He said that he had just disposed of several carloads of steers and wished to invest the money in some diamonds. The most beautiful stones in the store were exhibited to him, and after he had scrutinized them carefully he said that he would like to have the stones shipped to Dell, where a friend of his would examine them thoroughly. He was told that he would have to make a deposit, whereupon he quickly turned over \$25 to Mr. Rose. The precious stones were forwarded to the express agent at Dillon.

Curiously the alleged Brenner, in company with a woman, drove up to the express office in a car and the man entered the place and called for Brenner. After looking at the diamonds he proffered a check but the agent refused to accept it. The man then told him to bring the package out to the car and he would pay him in cash. Just then Esco got the hunch. As soon as Brenner stepped over the threshold he hid the diamonds. Fearing that the man would hold him up, he went outside, he called to Brenner that he would not release the diamonds. Brenner then jumped into his car and gave it the gas and the Esco saw from him he was heading south.

Esco then returned the diamonds to Butte. In the package was a ring valued at \$25,000 and a stick pin valued at \$1,000. Mr. Rose received the diamonds last Wednesday. On the same afternoon Brenner again appeared at the Butte jewelry store and told that he had returned the gems because his friend had not approved of them, but he again asked to see them. Mr. Rose was measuring a ring Brenner slipped the stick pin out of the tray. After thanking the jeweler for his trouble he made a hasty exit and never returned. The stick pin being the valuable stick pin being located.

WAVE OF BURGLARY IN ROUNDUP MAY BE MET BY VIGILANTES

Residents Decide It's Time to Take Some Steps to Apply Law to Crime Outbreak. Special to The Tribune. Roundup, Nov. 25.—A series of burglaries within the past 10 days has aroused the citizens and peace officers of this county and a campaign is being planned to put an end to this form of lawlessness. Two different attempts were made to force an entrance to the army store in the McAlister building, the first one made being frustrated by the timely return to the store of one of the clerks when it was discovered that the outer rear door had been partially forced open. The second attempt came to naught when Mr. Goldstein, the clerk, who sleeps in the rear room with a shotgun, a six-shooter, causing a hasty retreat.

The Jaffe & Sons store was entered the same night and merchandise to the value of \$40 was taken. Entrance was gained through the toilet window. Three attempts were made to rob the Montana bakery on different occasions, and although the thieves were successful in gaining an entrance, no valuables were found. The Roundup bakery was robbed of about \$10 in silver, the contents of the cash register. During a brief absence of Station Agent Schwab \$10 was taken from the till in the ticket office at the depot.

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HOLD-UP BAND KILLS LANDLORD OF BUTTE ROAD HOUSE, ROB FOUR

Unresisting Man Slain Despite Offer to Hand Over Anything; Pair Wanted; Taxi Man in Adjoining Room Overlooked; Two of Bandits Watched Outside Place. Butte, Nov. 25.—But Schilling, proprietor of the Harrison hotel, a road house on Harrison avenue, just outside the corporate limits of the city, was shot down by hold-up men early Friday morning. Four patrons of the place, two men and two women who were in the dance hall, were held up and robbed and the receipts of the place for Thanksgiving estimated to be several hundred dollars, secured.

Schilling was shot twice and died almost instantly. It was said that he had put up no resistance and that, on the contrary, he offered to give the hold-up men anything he had if they did not shoot. Four men were in the party of bandits, but only two entered the place, their partners remaining on guard outside the hotel. In the party held up and robbed were Dan and F. M. Grant, Dillon, and Gladys Kelly and Alice Engen, Butte. A taxicab driver, E. Sabo, in an adjoining room, was overlooked by the bandits. Officers were at once notified and a search was begun for the murderers. No arrests have yet been made. Schilling was married, and his wife, who lived in the hotel, was by his side a moment after he died.

FOGH INVESTIGATURE AS GROW CHIEF TO BE GORGEOUS EVENT

Most Ancient Rite of Tribe, Ceremony of Scaps Will Be One Spectacle. Special to The Tribune. Billings, Nov. 25.—Honored beyond all other tribes when selected as the only Indians to pay formal tribute to Marshal Foch, the Crow are planning the most gorgeous ceremonial ever held on the reservation, when Chief Plenticos makes the marshal a chieftain at Crow Agency next Monday morning. In the center of the village of trophies pitched in the agency square, Plenticos, who represented all American red men at the burial of the unknown soldier at Washington, will invest Marshal Foch with war honors, war shirt, leggings, moccasins and a war stick, will proclaim him a Crow chief and will give him a name meaning victor over the enemy.

Barbous Breakfast. Indian Commissioner Burks has formally appointed Plenticos master of ceremonies. Associated with him in arrangements will be the famous Dr. Joseph E. Dixon, of Philadelphia, secretary of the National American Indian Memorial association. Arriving at Crow agency at 7:30 o'clock, the marshal will see the assembled Indians of the Big Horn, including Col. Frank Parker, Capt. Alton T. Roberts, Col. Franklin D'Olier, Col. Van R. C. King, Capt. G. E. McCullough, and Col. James A. Drain.

Dashing Ride a Program. This will be followed by one of the most ancient and beautiful rites of the Crow tribe, the "ceremony of the scaps," in which hundreds of costumed braves will ride their horses across the

Gifts for Entourage. During an Indian dance at the village, Chief Plenticos will celebrate the making of a new chief. After this ceremony, gifts will be presented to General Desticker, chief of staff of Marshal Foch; Captain L'Hopital, aide to Marshal Foch; Dr. Andrew, physician to Marshal Foch; Count de Chamberlain, Major de Mierry, and American members of the marshal's party, including Col. Frank Parker, Capt. Alton T. Roberts, Col. Franklin D'Olier, Col. Van R. C. King, Capt. G. E. McCullough, and Col. James A. Drain.

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Golden West Mystery May Be Clear in Week

Special to The Tribune. Lewistown, Nov. 25.—It is now very confidently expected that the Golden West well on the Black Butte structure will finally reach the Tunsleep sand of the quadrant formation next week and the fate of this important enterprise will then be known. The well was begun last spring and has now been drilled nearly 5,000 feet, but many mishaps have delayed the work. At the head of the project are Senator Bruce Roberts, formerly of Great Falls, and E. F. Cobb, of this city.

Community Gym Fund of \$1000 for Scobey

Special to The Tribune. Scobey, Nov. 25.—Nearly \$1,000 was subscribed by Scobey business men at a meeting called to consider the project of building a school gymnasium here. With this money available it is expected the building will be erected, as it is believed that much has been done already toward financing it. The gymnasium is to be used not only by the school children but is to be made available to the entire community.

New County Assessor Takes Valley Office

Special to The Tribune. Glasgow, Nov. 25.—Ben Cottrell of Hinsdale, has taken office as county assessor, succeeding A. B. Rotering. Mr. Rotering resigned on account of ill health, and will leave soon for Arizona. Mr. Cottrell was appointed by the county commissioners. He was elected to the same office in 1918, serving one term, and declining to be a candidate in 1918. He has been engaged in farming and road contracting.

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