

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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A Daily Bible Thought

POWER OF THE WORD: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.—Hebrews 4:12.

SOLDIERS PREFERENCE.

THERE is complaint that in the scramble for office at Washington soldiers' preference gets a good many knockdowns and the spirit of the civil service regulations is dumped in the ash can. A Washington dispatch says that the discriminations of Postmaster General Hays against ex-service men in the matter of appointments of postmasters, following an executive order of President Harding over-throwing the Soldiers' Preference law, which are coming to light in various parts of the country will no longer be possible if a bill introduced by Senator Trammell, (Dem. Fla.) at the request of his democratic colleague, Senator Fletcher, becomes a law. Senator Fletcher's bill gives preference to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines and the widows and the wives of such, for nomination as postmaster, and aside from its general provision is as follows: "When a vacancy exists or hereafter occurs in the position of postmaster preference shall be given to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines, and to the widows of such, and to the wives of disabled soldiers, sailors, and marines who themselves are not physically qualified to hold such positions; and it shall be the duty of the postmaster general to submit to the president for nomination as postmaster the name of the veteran, or the widow, or the wife obtaining the highest eligible rating as the result of an open competitive examination conducted by the United States civil service commission, under such rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the post office department and the commission."

Under the Wilson administration the existing law was construed to give preference to ex-service men. This was an act approved March 3, 1919, giving preference in appointments to clerical and other positions of the executive department and in independent government establishments to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines and widows of such, if they are qualified to hold such positions, which was amended by an act approved July 11, 1919, by including the "wives of injured soldiers, sailors, and marines who themselves are not qualified but whose wives are qualified to hold such positions."

In an executive order, April 13, 1920, President Wilson declared that "the veteran preference statute shall apply in the selection of persons for appointment as postmaster at offices of the first, second and third class." In all appointments to civil service positions President Wilson was also a stickler for the appointment of the highest eligible on the list and this rule was insisted upon and carried out, except where preference was given to ex-service men, their wives or widows.

President Harding's first executive order with reference to the appointment of postmasters, issued May 10, 1921, abrogated President Wilson's executive order making it imperative to name the highest eligible on the list and provided that any one of the highest three on the list should be eligible to appointment. In this way, if there was one republican among the three, although he might have the lowest rating of the trio it would be made possible to appoint him over the two democrats who would have a higher civil service rating. Not content with this overthrow of the main principle of the civil service law, President Harding made a new executive order on Oct. 14, 1921, in which he said that "the appointment of presidential postmasters is not within the legal scope of the civil service law and, therefore, as a matter of law no 'preference' is applicable thereto," and made the provision that persons who served in the world war should be given five points in their rating.

Thus the veterans preference law, construed by President Wilson to

apply to presidential postmaster-ships, was overturned by the executive order of President Harding, and thus a door was opened to give republican politicians preference over ex-service men by making any one of the three highest on the list eligible to appointment, instead of the highest on the list as under the Wilson administration, regardless of the fact of whether the appointee was a democrat or a republican.

As a result of President Harding's discrimination against ex-service men in these executive orders, discriminations by the postmaster general have naturally followed and are beginning to come to light. At Schenectady, N. Y., Edwin D. Conde was nominated for postmaster over two ex-service men, one of whom, a Spanish war veteran, was postmaster at the time, and the other a major in the world war, who was also a Spanish war veteran. At Peoria, Ill., as reported by the commander of the American Legion post in that city, a "republican ward politician" has been appointed acting postmaster over a veteran who entered the service at the age of fifty-eight, who was the son of a Civil war veteran, a brother of a Civil war soldier and the father of an only son who entered the world war the same time he did. This ex-service man suffered permanent injury in the service. According to the report, this republican politician was given preference also over a man who for twenty-five years was chief clerk of the railway mail service. Senator Fletcher has cited a case in his own state where an honorably discharged disabled service man, a democrat, and acting postmaster, who was the only qualified eligible in a recent examination, was not re-appointed, but another examination called so that a republican might get the job.

Another case reported in the newspapers would indicate that in some of the southern states postmaster-ships are being given to men who have recently come to that section from northern states and in this particular case at Tallahassee, Fla., there is a question as to whether the appointee has lived there long enough to qualify. The present republican administration has been accused of re-enthroning special privilege at Washington, but this is the first evidence that carpetbagging may also be revived.

Under President Harding's executive order making any one of the highest three on the certified list eligible for appointment, it is obvious that the republican administration will be able to put only republicans in the postoffice. The long fight to take the postoffice department out of politics and to fill the postoffices of the country with the highest class of men possible under the competitive examination system will of course have been in vain if appointments are to be made in the manner herein described. The very worst feature of this method is the discrimination against ex-service men. This can be put to a stop by the passage of Senator Fletcher's bill making it mandatory for the president and Postmaster General Hays to give preference to war veterans, and their wives or widows, if the veterans themselves are not otherwise qualified. The bill has been read twice and referred to the committee on postoffices and post roads, where it may remain unless favorable action by American Legion posts and other war organizations together with a manifestation of public sentiment generally shall cause it to be reported out.

THE CANADIAN ELECTION.

THE liberal party in Canada swept the elections last Tuesday and obtained a majority over all the other parties, while the conservatives who have been in power since the liberals were defeated on the question of American reciprocity take third place, the progressives coming second with 62 members to 50 conservatives. The progressives like the liberals favor low tariff, especially on things used by the farmers like agricultural machinery. The liberals have 120 members.

It was during the Taft administration that the American congress passed a Canadian reciprocity bill. It was probably the only time in the last half century that such a bill could have been passed through an American congress. The farmers and business men of the country were feeling keenly the evils of a high tariff bill that was almost prohibitive, and there was revolt against it even among the manufac-

The Haskin Letter

By FREDERICK J. HASKIN

EDUCATION WEEK

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—This week has been set aside by the president of the United States to impress upon the American people the fact that backward education in this country is in a most backward condition, and to interest citizens in community efforts to improve it.

It is easy to prove by statistics that in this country an education is relatively hard to get. Perhaps more important is the question of what kind of education offered a child in the United States is worth after he gets it. That, however, is a debatable question, while the inadequacy of our school facilities is demonstrated in a way that no one can refute.

The congressional committee which recently made a study of education in the United States decided that this country ranks tenth among the nations in the value of the education it offers its citizens. The percentage of its citizens who never learn to write is also much higher than in the principal European countries. Estimates of illiteracy are never very accurate, but the United States is generally credited with about 5,000,000 illiterates over 10 years of age who are illiterate. Twenty-eight per cent of these illiterates are native white citizens, 30 per cent are foreign-born whites, and 40 per cent are colored, while 2 per cent are orientals.

Germany, England, France, Holland and Switzerland, all have smaller percentages of illiterates than the United States. The first did have before the war. These countries all have much less wealth than America, and we are prone to think of them as less advanced in democracy than we are. Yet in education, which is the very foundation of every democratic institution, they all are ahead of us.

Illiterate Immigrants In eastern and southern Europe the percentage of illiterates in the population of the various countries are much higher, ranging from 25 per cent in Austria, to 89 per cent in Roumania. It is from these wholly uneducated countries, and from their most uneducated classes, that the United States is now drawing most of the immigrant population.

The percentage of illiteracy merely reflects the well known fact that there are not enough schools in the United States. In almost every large city the schools are reported over-crowded every year. We hear of double shifts, and of enormous classes, which means that no individual attention for each pupil. In most of our rural districts schools still keep open only a few months in the year, and many country children can reach school only by long hard walks.

Far more important is the question of what kind of an education the child gets when and if he succeeds in getting to school. The most striking fact in this connection is that our school teachers are among the poorest paid of all workers. Plumbers and bricklayers are plutocrats by comparison. Even in the great cities, teachers are only fairly well paid. They never earn as much as a bright man or woman can make in business, nor as much as a gifted person can make in journalism or the arts.

When we consider the country districts and the small towns, school teachers are paid barely a living wage. Hence, the education of the great mass of the most part of our rural children is entrusted for the most part to young girls who want a way of earning pin money until a husband can be found.

To realize the seriousness of the condition of education in America, you must get an adequate conception of what education might be, and of how much depends upon it. For literally everything depends upon it. The hope of the future is in its schools. Consider any of the major problems which confront the country with care and it will lead you to the schools.

Take the problem of the national health, for instance. The draft revealed the fact that about a third of the men of military age in this country were physically unfit. In many cases this physical unfitness was reported to be due to a lack of knowledge of the simple facts of hygiene. In a world many of these men are physically impaired for life because they had not been taught in school rooms those facts about the unimpaired body and the care which are necessary to the health and well-being of every civilized individual.

Underfed Children Most of the rest of the unfitness was due to undernourishment. Many of these young men had not attained to proper physical development because as children they had never had enough to eat. This is at the bottom an educational problem, too. For it is impossible to teach anything to a starved or hungry child. In a world many of these men are physically impaired for life because they had not been taught in school rooms those facts about the unimpaired body and the care which are necessary to the health and well-being of every civilized individual.

Take, again, the problem of crime. The United States produces more of it than any other civilized country in the world. Yet scientists have proved beyond question that more than 90 per cent of all crime is committed by persons who were criminally minded as children. In other words, if a proper scientific study was made of the school child, the greater part of crime would be prevented by isolating the criminal when young. Furthermore, in this way, many of these psychopaths could be cured and made into useful citizens.

In fact, the scientific study of the child in school is the thing above all needed. Not only the child below ten years of age, but the child above normal in gift and intelligence, suffer from the present system. Our schools teach a child to read and write, and beyond that they do little more than stuff him with a lot of false beliefs about government and society, which inhibit thought rather than encourage it. Their whole tendency is not to develop individuality, but to hammer every child into the same shape, and this restrictive tendency is found not only in the graded schools, but in high schools and in most colleges.

When America shall have become a more advanced and scientific civilization, the child instead of being entrusted for the most formative years of his life to an ignorant girl of 20, will pass that period under the supervision of men and women of the best brains and scientific training. His capacities will be studied with the utmost care. He will be examined as a child, and scientifically as an adult, or a radium deposit is examined. He will be recognized and treated as what he is—the most important of all the natural resources of the world. He will be trained and developed so as to attain the highest possible usefulness to himself and to the state.

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The liberal party which has just been restored to power in Canada made an issue of reciprocity with the United States. It seems to us that it was a dead issue, at least as far as it contemplates such reciprocity as they formerly proposed. It may be that some free interchange of a few specified commodities concerned might be arranged, but they would be decidedly limited in number. What Canada chiefly wants is a free market in the United States for her agricultural products. That was contemplated in the old reciprocity bill. We doubt if even a democratic administration would consent to it again. Canada threw away the only chance to get that she ever had or is likely to have when it yielded to a foolish hysteria about annexation that had not the slightest justification in fact and defeated the liberal party and its reciprocity treaty.

On the whole the people of the United States ought to be well pleased at the result of the Canadian election. The new premier is most friendly to the United States and has resided here for a time, being employed by John D. Rockefeller in some of his philanthropic enterprises.

Man Gallatin Opposed Picked by McCormick

Boseman, Dec. 8.—A wire received by George C. Davenport, a Republican, from Congressman W. J. McCormick, announcing that the congressman has recommended Davenport for the position of register of the land office, to succeed F. W. Appleton. A strong fight was made by the Gallatin county Republican organization against Davenport's appointment, but he won in spite of this.

CONTRACTOR VISITS CONRAD Special to The Tribune

Conrad, Dec. 8.—Dan Ledgerwood has left for Billings, after spending the past week here, looking after his interests. Mr. Ledgerwood has been doing contract work in the southern part of the state for the past several months.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SPECIALS

Very special, 12 only, Women's All Wool Cloth Coats, 6 with fur collars, and others plain, half lined. Value to \$30.00, at... \$15.75

FURS—Fur Capes, Animal Scarfs and Throws. To make a clean up, half price on them.

Excellent Quality Beacon Bath Robes at, each... \$5.95

Bath Robes for the little tots, special at, each... \$2.00

HATS—Get in on closing out prices. Choice of the best hats in the store at... \$6.00

One table Very Choice Hats... \$4.00

Children's Beaver Hats, Women's Satin Sailors and Hand Made Hats, choice, each... \$2

Handkerchiefs, Silk Hose, Silk and Kid Gloves and Silk Underwear for Xmas Gifts.

NOTED BISON HERD PASSING IN SALE AND BY SLAUGHTER

Mrs. Conrad Sells Off Main Portion to Yakima Meat Co.; Rest Being Butchered.

Special to The Tribune. Kettle, Dec. 8.—Today marked the passing of the famous Conrad herd of buffalo, one of the largest and finest herds of privately owned buffalo in America.

Gibson brothers of the Yakima, Washington, Meat company, were the purchasers and today are loading out between 80 and 90 head for shipment to Yakima, where they will be placed on a range. The balance of the herd are being slaughtered at the Conrad ranch east of Kallispell and will be shipped to various parts of the country.

Mrs. Alicia D. Conrad, executrix of the C. E. Conrad estate, stated that she is giving up the herd, feeling that the Conrad interests have no share in carrying on the work of preserving the buffalo for posterity. While expressing regret in parting with the herd she said that she had been compelled to give a good deal of time and thought to the work and felt that as the Conrad estate is nearing liquidation a disposal of the buffalo was necessary as none of the heirs were in a position to carry on the work.

Were Source of Small Profit. In discussing the financial side, she said that while they had not shown a large profit they had always shown a fair return. She added that the buffalo retain their wild instincts, even past several generations of breeding in captivity, and although able to take care of themselves under the most adverse range conditions, rapidly sicken and die if confined.

Started Several Other Herds. The herd has been permitted to increase, although cut by sales several times to near its original number, among these sales being two carloads sold to the American Bison society, but the herd has increased together with a gift of the finest pair in the Conrad herd, formed the nucleus of the present government herd near Kallispell.

Scribbling Epidemic in Hill County Taken Up by Superintendent

Special to The Tribune. Havre, Dec. 8.—Calling attention to the "just criticism" by business men of the results of the school examination, Miss Elizabeth Ireland, county superintendent of schools, has begun a campaign seeking to have more attention given to penmanship.

Fined for Concealing Smallpox in Epidemic

Special to The Tribune. Roundup, Dec. 8.—Joe Chandel of Gibtown has just paid a fine of \$25 for concealing smallpox in his case. He was arraigned before O. R. McVay, justice of the peace, on complaint of Dr. G. A. Lewis, health officer for Musselshell county. Chandel pleaded guilty.

Sister Seeks Brother and Sister in Montana

Special to The Tribune. Helena, Dec. 8.—Seeking to learn the whereabouts of her brother and sister, who were in northern Montana when last heard from, Mrs. Hannah Hemminger Hymerrill of Bridgman, Mich., has written to the state department of agriculture and publicity. She wants aid in obtaining the address of Rose and Henry Hemminger, stating that the former is married, her marriage name being Rose Albright, and when last heard from, more than a year ago, was working in the Rainbow hotel at Malta. The writer explains that the mother of the two is not in good health and would like to hear from them.

Former Havre Man Ill in California; Kin Go

Special to The Tribune. Conrad, Dec. 8.—The Odd Fellows have elected the following officers: Noble Grand, George Staff; vice grand, Joe Maurer; secretary, James Green; recording secretary, Arthur Aquem; treasurer, Alex. Stolingwah; trustee, Warren Stricklin.

RASMUSSEN PICKED FOR COLLECTOR AS DEADLOCK RESULT

Riddick and McCormick Each Had Own Candidate and Had to Compromise.

Special to The Tribune. Helena, Dec. 8.—Charles A. Rasmussen of Glendive, who was nominated by President Harding to be collector of internal revenue for Montana Wednesday, owes his appointment to Representatives McCormick and Riddick and his selection came about through compromise.

Originally Representative McCormick recommended Will Logan of Helena for this office and Representative Riddick recommended Roy Fuller of Havre. Each congressman sent his recommendation to the president, McCormick refusing to agree to the appointment of Riddick's candidate and Riddick being equally firm in his opposition to McCormick's choice.

In view of this deadlock the president refused to make any appointment and told the congressmen they must get together. Further parleys between the congressmen finally resulted in the selection of Rasmussen. As soon as confirmed by the senate, Rasmussen will take charge of the office, as the collectors of internal revenue are not appointed for definite terms, but serve only at the pleasure of the president.

THEY CAN'T DOPE IT OUT IN HELENA; SHELLEY ZERO

Special to The Tribune. Helena, Dec. 8.—Many leading Republicans of the capital city are expressing surprise at the action of President Harding in nominating Charles A. Rasmussen of Glendive for the internal revenue collectorship of Montana, and are wondering what influences were brought to bear to bring about this action.

Former Legislator C. A. Rasmussen is well known about Helena, having served in a number of legislative assemblies as a representative from Dawson county, his last appearance in the house of representatives being during the Sixteenth assembly. He will succeed James A. Walsh who has filled the office of collector of internal revenue since February 1, 1920, and who will relinquish the office probably about the first of the coming year.

State Reclamation Projects Ask Less

Special to The Tribune. Washington, Dec. 8.—The estimates of the Montana reclamation projects for 1922 are: Fort Belknap, \$25,000; Flathead, \$200,000; Fort Peck, \$19,000; Blackfeet, \$30,000; Crow, \$125,000; Huntley, \$175,000; Milk River, \$800,000; Sun River, \$340,000; Lower Yellowstone, \$180,000.

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SELF RELIANCE Every dollar you put in the bank increases your faith in yourself. It is easier to face almost any problem when you have some money put aside. Self-reliance grows in proportion to your savings and the world soon learns to believe in the man who believes in himself.

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MONTANAN AMONG NATIONAL RECLAIMERS

State Reclamation Projects Ask Less

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The marvelous DUNN-PEN

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