

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

W. M. BOLE, Editor
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EDITORIAL PAGE

THE PRIMARY ELECTION LAW

One measure to come before the present legislature is an amendment of the primary election law. It is our understanding that more than one bill looking to that end will be introduced. It has been our conviction that no amount of amending will cure the vicious defects of that bill, and that the best thing we could do with it for the public welfare was to repeal it intirely and throw it in the scrap heap, going back to the old party caucus and convention system. This had its evils to be sure. But none of these evils were cured by the primary law we have had in force. They were aggravated instead of mitigated. And besides, the primary law introduced a whole flock of evils of its own more pernicious and detrimental to the public weal than any that ever attached to the old system. Our choice would be to throw the blamed thing overboard with a heavy weight attached to it, and sink it in the deepest part of the waters of oblivion and then start in new with something more workable. But the politicians of both political parties hesitate to take such radical measures, while admitting the gross faults of the present law. Both political parties are on record as favoring its amendment, and we suppose it will have to be that way.

The task before the legislature is therefore to tinker up a law that is rotten in its whole framework and make something decent and respectable out of it. It is a mighty difficult task. We had almost said a hopeless task. But perhaps the statesmen at Helena can make something that looks like a workmanlike job of it. We surely hope so, and assure them that they have our sympathy and distinguished consideration in advance. We have an idea that the nearer they come to restoring the old party convention system by amendments the nearer they are likely to succeed in elimination of some of the worst evils of the present law. Let us consider some of these.

One of the evils of the present system is its enormous additional expense to the taxpayers and the candidates. It doubles up all election expenses to the counties because it calls for two elections instead of one. The newspapers profit greatly by this. They get a good fat share in the loot taken from the taxpayer by this infamous primary law. They also get some additional revenues from the candidates who spend a good deal of money in the primary campaign forced on candidates by this law for publicity. From the standpoint of self interest the newspapers of the state should support the present primary law strenuously. That they generally take the opposite side should be marked up to their credit by the public, for it is certainly against their financial interest to repeal it. One of the first things the statesmen at Helena will doubtless try to reform by amendment is the excessive cost of the system. And we will be blessed if we can see how that is to be done without abandoning the whole framework of the present primary law which rests on an election by ballot held by the county authorities. You can't have an election without judges, and polling places, and costly supplies of printing and advertising, and so forth. If these items are still to be paid by the taxpayer the reform of the primary so far as its excessive cost to the taxpayer is concerned looks rather hopeless to us. Maybe the wisdom of the legislature will see a way out of this hole not apparent to us at this time. We hope so.

Another evil of the primary election system at present is that while in theory it is fair as between city and country voters, in practice it is most unfair, and disfranchises the country voter. Theoretically, that is the country voters own fault, because he will not come out in force to attend the primary elections. He has often a long way to go and the primary election is held at a season of the year when he is particularly busy at the farm. It does not seem practical to change the date much to his advantage in this respect, because our election comes in November, and no date fixed at a reasonable period for a campaign before election day would make it more convenient for the average country voter to leave his farm work and attend. The result of this feature of the present primary law is that where the city voter takes any lively interest in any candidacy he can easily outvote the country at a primary election. The old convention system met this feature by giving the country a fixed representative voice on such questions, without respect to the total number of votes cast in the party caucuses in the country, and generally the country districts had far more delegates in a party convention than even their vote at the fall election entitled them to. In this way the weight of the country districts in choosing party candidates was fully considered and preserved. Another evil of the present system is the tendency of voters to vote a party ticket in the primary election which they do not intend to support at election day. In this way, under certain circumstances they are able to put up a weak candidate on the opposition ticket and so make the election of the party they really be-

long to or the candidate they really favor more certain. Such illegitimate use of the primary law is often charged. In some instances within our own knowledge, we believe it has been put in practice. Probably that feature could be cured by amendment.

We have not space here to go on reciting the evils of the present law. It discourages the best men from becoming candidates and encourages every crank and office seeker to become a candidate. It lends itself to every sort of political wire pulling and cheap skulduggery. It is an offense and a blot on common sense and clean politics. If it has any good points at all we have failed to discover them. It has aggravated every evil of the old system of conventions which it claimed to cure, besides fastening on the body politic many new ones. Here is hoping, though much doubting, that the legislature can cure these faults by amendment.

LLOYD GEORGE AND HIS SUPPORT.

The heavy conservative majority returned at the recent British parliamentary election may be somewhat misleading, thinks the Springfield Republican, which seems to have access to details of the vote at the late election in Great Britain that we have not yet seen. According to this authority, the liberal votes put together constitute a majority of the total vote cast at the late election and the conservative total is a minority. This is a condition quite possible in our own republic. There have been times when the majority of the voters in this country cast their votes in support of a candidate for president who failed to get a majority in our electoral college, and so was defeated by a minority of the voters. The Springfield Republican says:

"The large number of British constituencies in which the coalition vote was split between liberal and labor candidates made it essential that the total number of votes cast for the coalition and the non-coalition groups should be compared before the recent election could be estimated fairly as an indication of public sentiment. The complete figures, which have now been cabled to America, are thus to be regarded as important. The total coalition vote was 5,091,000, and the total non-coalition vote, 4,589,486. Of the coalition total, less than 1,500,000 votes returned 136 liberal candidates, while only 26 independent liberals were elected by a vote of 1,250,000. The representation obtained by labor was also disproportionate to the total vote, though less so. "The vote gained by coalition liberals, if added to the non-coalition total would show that the conservatives have a minority in the electorate. Lloyd George is sure to be aware of the fact that while he is prime minister of a conservative government, he is not prime minister of a conservative country. If it is true, as reported, that he is disappointed by the small number of independent liberal members, on whom he could count for support on certain broad questions of policy, it is evident that he expects opposition at an early date. His personality and strategy won the election, and if he is unable to carry out those election pledges which the country really expects him to redeem; a second appeal to the country will come sooner than had been expected.

"In that contingency Lloyd George might attempt to head a straight liberal-labor coalition. But that would be possible only if the liberal party would identify itself with labor's demands and would receive Mr. George back into the fold. In any event, the real meaning of the election—or absence of meaning, beyond a demonstration of Mr. George's popularity—should soon be apparent."

Lloyd George can hardly feel altogether at home among his supporters in parliament after the work of peace making is ended and he comes to take up domestic problems unless he has greatly changed his radical views on such questions since the war began, and it would not be strange if he called a new election, which under the British practice a prime minister can do any time he wishes, about the time he takes up domestic legislation and finds conservative support lacking.

The Opinions of Others

- AN ABSOLUTE ESSENTIAL. (Houston Post.) Personally, we never expect to see a street car service that the public will praise; a telephone service it will not abuse; a gas service it will not criticize. But, nevertheless, you can't get along without a public.
PICTURES THAT LIE. (Ohio State Journal.) Probably no man really looks quite so carefree and happy while taking his cold shower bath on a late November morning as the one in the advertisement does.
ASK THE SODA FOUNTAIN CLERK. (New York Telegram.) There will be just 51 drinks of beer per capita in the country after December 1, I am told. After the brewery wagon drivers get theirs where de rest of us come in?
AS PEACEFUL AS THE MARNE. (Dayton News.) China and Japan are threatening to introduce complications at the peace conference. Have you supposed the peace conference was going to be a placid afternoon tea affair? Neither have we.

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

PEACE USES FOR WAR INVENTIONS

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—The Bureau of Mines began working on two listening devices—the geophone and the microphone—when America entered the war, with a view to using them on the battlefield. They were French inventions, but the French, with the enemy at their door, did not have time to develop them, altho they were used to a limited extent in attempting to locate German artillery and in tunneling. The geophone, as its name indicates, records the tremors of the earth. When a gun is fired a tremor runs thru the earth and the geophone locates that tremor. When the German long-range gun started firing on Paris, it took some time to find out where it was. With the geophone, its location could have been determined in a few minutes. In describing the marvelous ability of the geophone, an official of the bureau of mines said: "The dropping of a pin on this office floor, recorded by the geophone, would sound like the discharge of a cannon."

The geophone as a practical instrument was one of the secrets that the allies were carefully cherishing as a surprise to the enemy, but it arrived too late. Nevertheless, it has not lived in vain. The bureau of mines has succeeded in getting it installed on rescues cars connected with American mines, and it is now consecrated to a highly constructive purpose. Those tragedies of the past in which miners have been walled up in a mine and have starved to death while people on the outside were getting in and out of the mine, they will never be re-enacted. For now the slightest movement made by man caught in such an accident can be recorded by the geophone and their location discovered by the rescuing party. Another war invention developed by the bureau of mines that will be useful in peace is a new type of marine boiler which saves coal. When the Emergency Fleet corporation began building ships to meet the tremendous transportation needs of the nation, the bureau of mines turned its attention to perfecting a better type of marine boiler. They succeeded in developing one, at last, which, when tried out on a six thousand ton vessel, used only six tons of coal to do the work for which seven tons had been used before. With this boiler the vessel made the trip across the Atlantic in less than a month. This boiler was especially valuable during our coal shortage, it has a permanent significance. For some time there have been pessimistic rumors to the effect that an American merchant marine will never pay because it cannot compete with the low wages of European seamen. But if American engineers can cut down operating costs by the invention of more efficient machinery, we need have no fear of this competition. The bureau of mines is still working on marine boilers with a view to developing even more economical ones.

The work of the bureau of mines in developing poisonous gases and gas masks for war, while little celebrated, was not only invaluable for the government, but has proved of lasting peace value. When the United States first entered the war it was too much preoccupied in organizing its forces to give the matter of poisonous gas immediate consideration. So without waiting for authority which is always slow in coming, the bureau of mines undertook some investigations on its own hook. It enlisted the aid of American chemists all over the country, who responded so enthusiastically that when the war department finally got around to the matter, the bureau of mines had a force of 1700 chemists to turn over to it. These chemists succeeded in developing poisonous gases of a secret and deadly nature which were about to be released for the benefit of the Hun army when it collapsed. They also developed a gas mask so efficient that the war department issued the statement that if a man were gassed it was due to his own carelessness in adjusting his mask and not to mask's vulnerability. But one of the nicest features of this work is that these masks are just what workers in American chemical industries have needed all these years to protect them from the deadly chemical fumes let loose in the factories. In developing poisonous gases, several important chemical discoveries were also made which cannot be published at this time, but which, it is claimed, will be of great value to American industries. Another war development that is proving of peace value is the invention of American breathing apparatus for miners, worked out by the bureau of mines. When the war department started sending mining regiments to France, it discovered that the U. S. had been in the habit of importing such apparatus from Europe—principally from Germany. With a face mask connected to a tank of oxygen by a long tube, a man can live two hours in an atmosphere which, without protection, would kill him in a minute. The war department needed such apparatus for its men who were to tunnel through the earth to the position of the enemy and then blow him up. It was also needed by the men who were filling shells with poisonous gases. The bureau of mines finally worked out an American type, and this country need never again be dependent upon Europe for the safety of its miners. At the same time a new method of signaling a warning to miners was worked out by the bureau. A mine is usually a large and complicated underground factory, and in the past, when accidents have occurred, it has been difficult to pass the warning from one end of it to the other. The sounding of a gong might be heard for a half mile, but men working beyond that distance would not hear it. Now in the event of danger a preparation with a peculiar odor is put into the pipes that convey compressed air to mining machines, and the minute the miners smell this odor they know it is time to quit the mine. One of the most important war achievements of the bureau of mines, which holds great possibilities for the future, if not for the present, is the development of fuel substitutes. It has discovered a mixture of gasoline and alcohol, which takes an aerobically thousand feet high-lander in the air than it can on plain gasoline, but of even greater importance is its contribution toward the development of the balloon. It has been a matter of amazement to a great many people that the dirigible airship—and especially the German Zeppelin—was able to do so little damage in the war. For awhile, of course, the Zeppelin raids on France and England appeared to be satisfying the wildest expectation, but as a matter of fact, they failed. The many Zeppelins literally went up in smoke when punctured by the incendiary bullets of the allies that the Germans were compelled to order the remaining ones home. The trouble with the dirigible was that its gas bag was filled with a highly inflammable gas which exploded and set fire to the entire machine when ignited by an incendiary bullet. Sometimes the aviators succeeded in escaping in their parachutes, but more often they were burned alive while strapped in their seats. Hence, dirigibles became unpopular, and the Zeppelins gradually retired from the aerial war zone. Meantime, however, both sides were working furiously on the problem of finding a non-inflammable gas for the dirigible's gas bag. Down in Fort Worth, Texas, engineers sent over by the allies, finally succeeded in solving the problem. Just before the signing of the armistice they developed a product from natural gas which proved to be what they were searching for. It is lighter than air, and at the same time it is not inflammable. Six months more of war, and the Germans would have had a striking example of their own pet species of frightfulness. This war invention will also have a peace time use for the little dirigibles developed by the navy, promise to have a great future as carriers of passengers and cargo. Except for the fact that static electricity or lightning may set fire to their gas bags, they are far safer than airplanes. This danger from fire may now soon be removed.

TRAVELETTE

By NIKSAIL.
ASUNCION
In the typical North American city you see many pretty homes set in lawns, and often showing considerable architectural beauty, while the public and business buildings are usually big, ugly boxes of brick and stone, with just an occasional pretty court house or city hall. In a South American city this distribution of municipal beauty is reversed. If you go there the residential sections of Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, for example, you find yourself passing endless walls flush with the street. There are no yards, usually no trees, and no attempts at architectural effect. The windows are often barred and the doors are heavy, forbidding affairs, without verandas or porches, while the roofs are flat. Second story balconies on some of the houses are the only excrescences that break this monotony of blank and forbidding wall. For a South American has his front yard in the middle of his house. If you call on a citizen of Asuncion, you pass thru a hallway and into a courtyard, which is full of charm secreted from the street. Here a little fountain plays there are flowers and palm trees and pretty benches and very likely a parrot or a monkey. The interiors of the better houses, too are as attractive as their exteriors are ugly, the rooms being high-ceilinged and richly furnished. The public buildings of Asuncion, on the other hand, are almost all of high architectural merit. The railway station is a thing of beauty, as is also the government "palace," which was built by a Spanish conqueror of long ago, while the banks are richly decorated structures of marble. OIL OF PETIT GRAIN
This is the commercial name of an oil which is extracted from the rind of bitter oranges, and which forms a part of most perfumery. Seventy per cent of it comes from the South American republic of Paraguay. A Missourian has designed a farm tractor that can be converted into a road wagon, the drive being through the front wheels, while two wheels replace a single rear wheel when it becomes a truck.

Unpaid Taxes Double Last Year's Figure

Special to The Daily Tribune.
Chinook, Jan. 6.—The books of County Treasurer L. J. Hateman show that the amount of delinquent taxes in Blaine county for this year is \$53,849.83, or nearly double the delinquent list of last year. This is attributed to two causes, the deferred payment of real and personal property of men in the army, which reaches nearly \$7,000, and the second year of crop failure for the majority of farmers in this county. Some of the delinquent payments are still coming in, December's record showing that payments amounting to \$3,425.95 were received. Early payments, or those received in October amounted to \$18,518.58. November's payments were \$375,334.84 making a total of \$397,279.39 received for taxes in this county for 1918.

Assessed Valuation in State \$592,692,780

Helena, Jan. 6.—Total valuation of Montana as reported by equalizers, is \$592,692,780, reports here show. That of the railroads is \$83,483,745. State of low county leads with \$23,433,066. Cascade is second with \$22,174,965. Fergus third with \$28,480,398 and Yellowstone fourth with \$25,379,002. Lands are valued at \$130,787,809, improvements at \$32,519,339, livestock at \$75,000,516 and personal \$101,689,230.

CLOSING OF CEMENT WORKS THROWS MANY OUT OF WORK

Special to The Daily Tribune.
Lewistown, Jan. 6.—The closing down of the cement works at Hanover, due to the lack of demand for the products because of the long cessation of building and other constructive work, while merely temporary, has had the effect of increasing the number of unemployed men in this section. The condition will hardly improve until the spring season.

BRIDGE CONTRACT LET.

Roundup, Jan. 6.—A contract for the erection of a bridge across the Musselshell river at the Porton ranch has been let by the county commissioners to the Security Bridge company, the contract price being \$9,000. Work will be started at once on the structure, which is one of the links in the Goulding Creek road which shortens communication between this city and the Hay Basin country.

United War Work Fund
Payment of Subscriptions Is as Follows:—
December 2, 1918 ..... 50%
January 15, 1919 ..... 25%
March 1, 1919 ..... 25%
The First Installment Is Now Due
Please make payment promptly to S. S. Ford, Treasurer, at the Great Falls National Bank. Payment in full, if convenient, appreciated.

S. L. BROOKS DEAD.
Lewistown, Jan. 6.—S. L. Brooks, of Valentine, died at that place yesterday morning of pneumonia, aged 65 years. He is survived by five sons, three daughters and the widow, all residing here or at Valentine except one daughter. The funeral will probably be held in Lewistown under Masonic auspices.
CORN ON DISPLAY.
Lewistown, Jan. 6.—In order to show the people what eastern Fergus is doing in the way of corn growing, A. W. Ogg of Winnett today placed on display here a good part of the corn shown at the recent corn show held at Winnett. He will keep this collection on display here for three days.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF AMERICAN BANK & TRUST CO.
at Great Falls, Montana, at the close of business December 31, 1918.
RESOURCES.
Loans and discounts secured ..... \$1,064,547.97
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured ..... 6,430.20
Bonds stocks and warrants ..... 71,220.48
Liberty bonds and certificates of indebtedness ..... 28,350.00
Banking house, furniture and fixtures ..... 4,899.87
Other real estate ..... 6,129.99
Cash reserve ..... \$ 11,010.56
Gold coin ..... 492.50
Silver coin ..... 4,497.96
Currency ..... 75,539.99
Due from approved reserve agents ..... 646,281.47
Due from other banks ..... 71,645.34
Checks and exchange on clearing house ..... 10,118.73
Other cash items ..... 6,997.08
Total ..... \$2,907,305.64
LIABILITIES.
Capital stock paid in ..... \$ 150,000.00
Surplus fund ..... 50,000.00
Undivided profits less expenses and taxes paid ..... 258.48
Due to banks and bankers ..... 140,246.24
Individual deposits subject to check ..... 1,054,801.23
Demand certificates of deposit ..... 29,820.00
Time certificates of deposit due within 30 days ..... 33,365.59
Cashiers checks ..... 22,892.72
Certified checks ..... 1,280.11
Coupon account ..... 468.00
Dividends unpaid ..... 7,568.00
Time certificates of deposit due on or after 30 days ..... 356,927.36
Saving deposits subject to 30 days notice ..... 176,842.73
Total ..... \$ 2,907,305.64
State of Montana, County of Cascade, ss. I, H. G. LESCHER, cashier of the above-named bank do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. H. G. LESCHER, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 1919. W. F. FAUST, Notary public in and for the state of Montana, residing at Great Falls. My commission expires April 18, 1919. Correct Attest: E. FOSTER, R. P. RECKARDS, Directors.

LOTS
Industrial Sites, Business Lots
Trackage
Residence Lots in all parts of the city—with Water, Sewer, Cement Walks, Boulevards
TERMS
1/3 Cash, 1/3 in 1 year, 1/3 in 2 years
7 Per Cent Interest on Deferred Payments
We accept Liberty Bonds at par
THE GREAT FALLS TOWNSITE CO.
9 1/2 Third Street South, First National Bank Building