

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

W. M. BOLE, Editor  
O. S. WARDEN, Manager

LEONARD G. DIEHL  
Business Manager

EDITORIAL PAGE

ANARCHY IN BERLIN.

The news from Berlin has an ominous resemblance to the news we used to get from Petrograd in the early days of the revolution there. First it seemed a peaceful revolution of democracy against autocracy. Then the most radical elements in the radical government maintaining law and order began to plot for the overthrow of the moderates and the substitution of the rule of the lowest elements over all bourgeoisie. The bolsheviks were permitted liberty to express themselves. They got armed and proceeded to use force of arms instead of argument to get rid of all opponents. Once they gained power they inaugurated a reign of terror and assassination to maintain it. That was the development of history in Petrograd. It looks as though a similar program was arranged and in progress at Berlin. The truth is hard to learn regarding what is transpiring in Berlin. It was also so in Petrograd. The forces of lawlessness controlled the telegraph lines and news agencies in Russia, and suppression of the truth is one of their cardinal principles. They work best in silence and darkness, so we are not very sure of just what has happened or is happening at Berlin just now. But this much is pretty certain. There is much fighting, bloodshed and anarchy in the capital city of Prussia and law and order has fled for the time being at least. The thing is important to us because we are about to make peace with Germany and we cannot make peace with anarchy and no government. If no one can speak with authority for the German people or guarantee their action in the present and future we may be forced much against our will and our interest to restore law and order in that country by ruling it with force of arms. The allies cannot tolerate anarchy there, though they may endure it for a time in Russia, hoping and expecting the Russian people will eventually put down anarchy themselves. But if Germany is to pay her debts to France and Belgium and the world she has got to go to work producing things instead of destroying what wealth she has left from the war. We have too much interest in her and the central powers as creditors to let her dance the dance of death as the Russians have done. In bolshevik Russia three-fourths of the usual crop land went unplanted last spring because these who usually tilled the soil had no certainty as to who would eat the crop raised by their labor, but were pretty sure that some one would take it and not pay them for it. So they raised just enough for their families, or planted none at all, trusting to luck in grabbing the fruit of some other fellow's toil. That is why they are starving now and yelling for the more thrifty of other lands to nasten and feed them before they die of hunger. Well we can't have that experiment repeated in Germany with like result, so the allied armies may yet have to march into Berlin and rescue the Germans from themselves. It is a sure thing that no one wants that job, and least of all our American soldiers abroad. They want just one thing and want it bad, all returning soldiers tell us. That is to get back to God's country just as soon as they can. They all feel that they went over there to clean up a dirty mess. They did the job without shirking, and they want nothing more but a sight of the Goddess of Liberty enlightening the world in New York harbor. There was a time when they wanted to go on to Berlin, and that time has gone by.

STATISTICS ABOUT THE FLU.

Generally speaking it is safe to take a pinch of salt with figures that deal with great disasters. The first estimates of death or damage are usually exaggerated. Thus a report came to this country a few weeks ago to the effect that twenty million people would die of hunger this winter in that part of Russia ruled by the bolshevik government unless the outside world sent food to them promptly. A few days ago the statement was repeated from another source, but the number of starved victims of bolshevik theories was reduced to ten millions. No doubt the number will be large, but we suspect it is subject to more reductions.

When we first began to read statistics about the prevalence of Spanish influenza and the number of victims it had made in the United States we thought the figures, which had to be based to a considerable extent on guesses, were similarly exaggerated. But as cold facts became available these indicated that the reverse was true and the estimate and guesses were erroneous only in that they were far too low. The astonishing disclosures made by the official reports of life insurance companies for the months of October and November showing that 120,000 of their policy holders died from the Spanish influenza in those two months does not admit of doubt. Evidently the total toll of life exacted by this fell disease equals or exceeds the highest estimates placed on it. The Springfield Republican, commenting on the facts says:

"That the epidemic has been even more costly in lives than had been supposed is indicated by the partial reports from the life insurance companies of the United States, printed in the Journal of Commerce. These show the death of more than 120,000 policy holders from this cause in October and November, causing claims for more than \$52,000,000. It is believed that the full returns for this period will show a loss of 200,000 lives and \$100,000,000 in claims. To what extent does this measure the total loss of life?"

The policies in force were about 11,500,000, or about 11 1/2 per cent of the population. If the deaths of insured persons were proportionate, this would bring the total loss of life in this country in two months of the epidemic to the astounding total of about 1,750,000 persons. Moreover, in December not only has there been a rather severe recurrence of the pest, but in some parts of the west it has been at its worst in that month, perhaps bringing the estimate to more than 2,000,000. It is probable that as a class, insured persons, though above the average in health, have suffered disproportionately because as a class they are also more active than the average and presumably more exposed to infection. But even when this allowance is made, it is obvious that this epidemic is by far the worst that that ever visited this country. Taking the world as a whole, it is doubtful whether any pestilence ever destroyed so many lives in so short a time."

PRIMARY AND ELECTION EXPENSES.

The governor in his message to the legislature directed in a general way the attention of the legislature to the need for a revision of the primary law. Such need has long been self evident. It was so clear that both the leading political parties prior to last election pledged themselves to its reform, and it is the intent of the present legislature to amend the primary law in some way in the hope of eliminating some of its evils. The Tribune has in many previous issues taken note of some of these evils. We do not intend in this article to repeat ourselves. But the great expenses involved in the present system of primary and regular elections is one thing that we hope the legislature will consider carefully with a view to its correction as far as possible, and it will be just as praiseworthy to save a few dollars on the general election as on the primary election if it can be done, and we think it can. At the last election we had a new party ticket filed under the heading of "National party." So far as our laws go we might have a dozen more new party organizations formed by a few cranks and they are entitled to put the state to a great expense in printing ballots, sending out literature advertising their aims, counting their ballots, etc. Perhaps that is all right if the new party or its candidates paid the expense, but they do not. The British ballot reform law which was tried for the first time at the recent parliamentary election contains a provision that each candidate who puts the state to the expense of providing election machinery for him or her shall deposit before election a hundred and fifty pounds to at least partially recoup the state for the expense incurred in event less than one-eighth of the voters supports his candidacy. One hundred and thirty-three candidates forfeited that deposit because they polled less than one-eighth of the vote cast in their district for the office they sought at the hands of the voters. The effect of that provision is to prevent cranks and visionaries who have no support from any considerable faction of the voters from saddling expense on the majority. If they have no confidence or belief in their ability to secure so small a fraction of the support of the voters as one-eighth they will hesitate to file their candidacy because they do not care to pay so much for publicity. The tendency of that provision is to discourage cranks from becoming candidates for high office. They have no hesitation as long as it costs them nothing individually and the taxpayers have to settle the bill of expense for them. It is a very different matter when it is likely that such expense will come out of their own pocket.

This suggestion is thrown out to the legislature for what it is worth. When they are going over the primary election law with the purpose of eliminating its expense to the taxpayers as far as possible, they might just as well take a look at the general election law and see if some of its expense cannot be cut out. There is for example a book of biographies telling the voters all about the candidates and what their views are, prepared by the candidates and issued by the state at vast expense. It might be well to consider the net cost of this little booklet to the state and its distribution cost, and see what the sum is, that is saddled on the taxpayers, and determine if it is worth the price, and if it is whether the candidates pay their proper proportion of the cost. Right off the bat we would say that it is not worth much to the voters, and if the cost to the taxpayers is large, as we suspect, it might profitably be abolished.

Since the alleged reformers got to making our election laws for us the cost has grown enormously. If there is anything that a reformer despises it is cost levied on the taxpayers. He throws away old revenues and adds new tax burdens with a royal contempt for the cost. Generally speaking he thinks he pays no taxes anyway, or very little. He is probably mistaken about that because he thinks taxes are always paid by the property owners, and not shifted to the consumer of products. But the legislature will do a good thing for the state if they cut down taxes by eliminating unnecessary costs of government. In the last analysis they will also benefit the man who never visited the office of the county treasurer to get a tax receipt as well as the man who groans as he notes the steadily mounting total expressed on his tax receipt.

Gentlemen of the legislature, just go over our election laws, both primary and general, with a newly sharpened knife, and see how much trimmings and frills that cost money can be cut away without any detriment to the usefulness of those laws, and it is our confident belief that the result will surprise you.

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

THE VOICE OF THE AIR

Washington, D. C., Jan. 7.—The great development of non-military flying which is now beginning in the United States, will in all probability be greatly stimulated by that newest of aerial inventions—the radiophone.

No longer is the flying man a being cut off from all the rest of mankind by distance and the noise of his roaring motors. It is now possible for him to converse with persons on the ground or in other airplanes even when they are miles away. He may call for help, ask about landing conditions below, send back information about the weather.

In that national system of landing fields which is the dream of all constructive-minded aviators and which the army fliers are now beginning to outline, this radiophone will play a part of the importance of which can scarcely be exaggerated. For it means that passenger and mail planes will be in almost continuous touch with ground stations.

The military value of the radiophone is even more obvious, and indeed was demonstrated in France under a command. The secret of the wireless telephone was revealed to the public.

The great value of the radiophone in military flying, of course, is that it enables great squadrons of planes to be in perfect unison under a command. When 18 planes going at a rate of 130 miles an hour dip or turn, or rock like one machine in perfect response to an order given by their leader in a machine two miles above them, and the order is simultaneously audible to all the planes in the squadron, it is a wonder of the world. There is something quite uncanny in the whole proceeding to the non-scientific listener and onlooker who is at the ground aerial station.

When in battle this invention enables the commander of a fleet of planes so to maneuver as completely to surround enemy planes hidden in clouds, and sometimes even those in the open. On the training field, the wireless telephone saves skillful pilots from unnecessary accidents by directing and correcting their pupils. The instructor on the ground is enabled by this device to make his commands perfectly audible to the pupil in the air without risking his life in the hands of a recruit pilot.

It is a proof of the perfection of the wireless telephone that in all the tests and drills which have been held, an order from a commanding officer has never been misunderstood by a man under his command, and no accidents have occurred to machines under the control of this new and powerful instrument. This is a great satisfaction in itself, and it also shows the splendid discipline and faith of an American aviator. As the airplanes, when in battle, are crowded close to each other, the slightest misunderstanding or disobedience on the part of an aviator would quite likely mean the collision of two planes and the probable death of both pilots.

When in battle this invention enables the commander of a fleet of planes so to maneuver as completely to surround enemy planes hidden in clouds, and sometimes even those in the open. On the training field, the wireless telephone saves skillful pilots from unnecessary accidents by directing and correcting their pupils. The instructor on the ground is enabled by this device to make his commands perfectly audible to the pupil in the air without risking his life in the hands of a recruit pilot.

Chief credit for the invention is given to Colonel Clarence C. Culver of the department of military aeronautics and the Samuel Rees of the Royal Flying Corps. The idea first took definite shape when these two officials were on duty at the International Aviation tournament at Belmont park in the fall of 1916. Earlier that same year Col. Culver and Captain H. M. Horton had established a radio-telegraph communication from a flying airplane to an aerial station at Sheeps-

head Bay, New York. Captain Horton is credited with having built the transmitting set and Colonel Culver, the receiving set.

It was six years later that the first message was transmitted from one airplane in flight to another, on Sept. 2, 1916. Colonel Culver continued his inventive work, and early the next year a radio-telephone was held, which resulted in the first transmission of the human voice from an airplane to the ground. Then, in May, 1917, Gen. George E. Squier, chief signal officer, led a conference which included Colonel Rees, Colonel Culver and Dr. E. B. Jewett of the Western Electric company. Later, master telephone engineers were called into the conference and the following fall Colonel Culver carried sample receivers and transmitter abroad with him for trial work in France, which proved very successful. Since February, 1918, American airplanes here and abroad have been fully equipped with wireless telephone apparatus.

Ever since the successful completion of this invention the secret has been wonderfully well kept, and it has been ascertained by government officials that, although German aviators were cognizant of the fact that the Americans had some unusual method of communication, they were entirely ignorant of the exact nature of that method.

The flyers of Great Britain and France have attempted the use of the wireless telephone. The former met with better success than the latter, but the most marked success has come to American aviators.

But the receiving and transmitting sets for wireless telephoning are very simple and compact in appearance. Moreover, they do not attract attention when in place on a machine. With the consent of General Kenly, Colonel Culver has given out the following information concerning the mechanism of the radiophone: "The transmitting set consists of a power plant, a set box, a transmitter or microphone and an antenna system. The power plant consists of a generator driven on the windmill principle by the passage of the airplane through the air. It is placed somewhere in the open—usually on the running gear or on one of the wings, and its tiny propeller blade whirrs vigorously as the airplane travels along. "The so-called set box receives the power from the generator, converts it and places it on the aerials in the form of sustained or undamped waves. The voice entering the transmitter varies the electric current on the wires, which are connected as in the ordinary telephone. In the set box the variations received from the transmitter are converted and act to effect a modulation of the continuous or undamped waves already referred to.

"The antenna system consists of an aerial or one or two trailing wires of approximately 150 feet in length strung out from the wing tips. This is counterpoised by the wires and other metallic parts of the airplane, all bonded together. The two elements of the antenna system are analogous to large overhead wires and to the 'ground' of a land wireless station.

"The receiving set consists of a receiver set box, a head receiver, a source of power and an antenna system. The latter is the same as the antenna system in the transmitting set. The source of power is a small storage battery. The head receiver is built into the aviator's helmet in such manner as to exclude sounds from reaching the pilot's ear and interfering with his hearing. The set box proper contains apparatus quite similar to the receiving apparatus of a first-class wireless station. However, it possesses a number of refinements over these which increase the audibility of incoming signals, withstand vibration and minimize 'weather'."

TRAVELETTE

By NIKSAH

"CHICK" THE CHAPERON.

Rittenhouse square is one of the finest public parks in the city of Philadelphia. This is partly due to the fact that it is situated in the finest residential section of Philadelphia, and that a group of wealthy neighbors have banded together to provide for its care. In the daytime, Rittenhouse square, is a playground for the children of Philadelphia's four hundred; but at night it becomes a rendezvous by the sweethearts of the four million.

Whether it is because soft music can often be heard from the palatial homes around; whether it is because of the soft splash of the fountain or because the lights are fewer and the benches better "spoon" is the very atmosphere of the square.

SEARCHLIGHT.

The notorious case of Leo Frank which inflamed the city of Atlanta, Ga., some three years ago can still be recalled by most Americans. In Georgia and some other parts of the south its memory is still so fresh that a ballad of 18 stanzas has been written about it, singing of which is very popular in backwoods districts, according to Franklin Bliss Snyder of the American Folk Lore society.

Bernstorff's Nephew Gets Three Months For Passport Fraud

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—Baron Alarid von dem B. Muench, nephew of the former German ambassador, Count von Bernstorff, was sentenced, today, to three months in the county jail for perpetrating a fraud upon the government, by attempting to enter the country with a forged passport.

Lord Cecil to Succeed Earl of Reading in U. S.

Paris, Jan. 9.—The Earl of Reading will not return to Washington as British high commissioner and special ambassador to the United States, according to a London dispatch. Lord Robert Cecil, former assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs, will succeed him.

PROPOSES REFERENDUM ON U. S. PROHIBITION.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 9.—A concurrent resolution providing that the national prohibition amendment be submitted to the people for an advisory vote at the next general election was introduced in the assembly of the California legislature, today, by Bismarck Bruck, assemblyman from St. Helena.

DEPARTURE LEAVES NO PAIN IN U. S.



Henrich von Eckhardt. The German government recently recalled Henrich von Eckhardt, German minister to Mexico since 1915. Notice was sent to him first through the Mexican embassy at Washington. It was disregarded. Later notice was sent direct to him. Von Eckhardt figured in the Zimmerman disclosures in 1917. He has been the leader in anti-American propaganda and news of his recall is not unwelcome in the U. S.

United War Work Fund

Payment of Subscriptions Is as Follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Date and Amount. 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.

PRESENT SITUATION IN RUSSIA



1—American forces in northern Russia have taken up their winter quarters at the village of Gogoli, about eighty miles south of Omsk and forty miles west of the frozen swamp which forms the allied positions along the Vologda railroad. 2—The bolsheviks have driven the Germans out of Riga and are marching on Reval. 3—Ufa, capital of the non-bolshevik government in the area west of the Ural mountains, has been captured by the bolsheviks.

BAND CONCERT IS IDEA OF BOOSTER

Have It in Park and Get Pictures of Crowd to Prove Montana January Weather.

That Great Falls is losing some of its best opportunity to advertise the excellent climate Montana can boast for January, is the observation of one enthusiastic advocate of the city's advantages. He has been proposing something to demonstrate the quality of the weather for a week and so far either it is so ordinary for most people that it doesn't impress them or else they feel it doesn't need advertising. "Why not give a band concert in Gibson park some afternoon, close the stores and have a genuine holiday program from 12 until 2," this man remarked. "Make it an event. Tell the people about it and have the women and the children, the business and professional men and the men who work and get pictures of the big, merry throng and then publish them so that the world might know what fine weather this city enjoys in January." Another man who happens to be in the city on business heard the remark and he joined in as a supporter of the plan. "That's the best thing that could be done to promote the city's reputation in the weather line," said the visitor. This morning the mail brought me a letter from my daughter who is at our home in an eastern state and she told of being ready to make a visit to another city in our state, she said she didn't want to go until the weather got better, as the trains were all delayed by snow and bad weather and the temperature was down at a point where the mercury was constantly huddling in the bulb of the thermometer. Then she added, "Of course you are having it a lot worse out there in Montana." I think that band concert stuff with pictures of the people in the park in their shirt sleeves and so forth, if not with sun shades would do a lot of good to kick the erroneous idea out of the eastern people's minds about the reported terrible weather Montana has.

BUTTE MAN NAMED DEPUTY.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Helena, Jan. 9.—The appointment of W. Stanley Hosking of Butte as deputy state commissioner of insurance has been announced by State Auditor George Porter. For two years Mr. Hosking has been secretary of the Montana Fire Insurance company, with headquarters at Butte. Mr. Porter observed it was a case of the office seeking the man and not the man the office.

Advertisement for THE GREAT FALLS TOWNSITE CO. featuring 'LOTS' and 'Industrial Sites, Business Lots Trackage'. Includes terms: 1/3 Cash, 1/3 in 1 year, 1/3 in 2 years. 7 Per Cent Interest on Deferred Payments. Address: 9 1/2 Third Street South, First National Bank Building.