

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL PAGE

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

HELP FOR HOMESEEKERS

Washington, D. C., Jan. 22.—Nearly all American railroads have made a business of advertising the lands along their routes, and most of them have maintained information departments, to which the man in search of a home or a farm might put his questions.

This good work of the railroads has now been taken over and is being co-ordinated under a new department of the United States Railroad Administration, known as the Homeseekers' Bureau. This bureau, like the ones maintained by the railroads, will furnish free information and advice to the intending farmer or country dweller. The chief difference between this national bureau and the national bureau has no interest except to tell the inquirer the truth about any section of the country. The railroad information departments, being essentially means of competition, were naturally inclined to make as attractive a case as possible for the region traversed by its own road.

There are not many organizations of value to as many persons as the Homeseekers' Bureau. It will be a friend and guide to the returned soldier or jobless worker whose desire turns to rural occupations. It will aid the Department of Agriculture in reaching new farmers, and in disseminating the results of its valuable work. And not the least of its purposes will be to help build up the railroads.

When the discharged soldier goes to the station to get his ticket home, he will be handed a small printed slip telling him that if he is interested in purchasing a home, the agent will have a notice of the Homeseekers' Bureau to every purchaser of a ticket.

The first nine soldiers may throw the slip away, but the tenth one may carefully preserve the address. Some one has told him of the golden opportunities awaiting the sheep-raising farmer in Northern Arkansas. Here is a chance to find out. The Homeseekers' Bureau will send him authoritative data on the prospects for sheep raising not only in northern Arkansas but in other regions where the sheep industry is as yet undeveloped. They will give him full information in regard to the land available, the value of it, and the terms upon which it can be obtained. Information in regard to the demand for wool and the advisability of such an enterprise is also forthcoming. If the soldier becomes sufficiently interested in the proposition, he will be placed in direct communication with the Farm Adviser for that section, who will help to the next stage.

Thus the Railroad Administration has accomplished its work in one case. When it has done all it can for him, he is turned over to the Department of Agriculture, which will give him information about how to raise the sheep.

In the above mentioned case, the soldier has been correctly informed. It happens that there are great possibilities in sheep-raising in certain regions. But often the city man is taken in by stories of fortunes to be made in fig-

and lemon orchards, or in cultivating swamps. If he really wants to take up farming or stock-raising, the Homeseekers' Bureau will tell him frankly the chances of success in the particular line that attracts him.

The headquarters of the Homeseekers' Bureau of course will be in Washington, D. C., but its agents are located in every state. There are about one hundred Railroad Agricultural Agents working for the Railroad Administration, who have now been made a part of the Homeseekers' Bureau. These agents are now engaged in collecting data relative to their respective localities. They will make reports telling what crops thrive, what crops are needed, the shipping facilities, the dairy supply, the climate, schools and churches. These reports are to be published as pamphlets, and will be used in answering requests. When specific information is asked, which is not contained in the printed matter available, or in any other form, the homeseeker will be placed in communication with one of these agents, who will supply the latest information.

This bureau, which was inaugurated on January 1st, is now receiving at least one hundred letters a day. This is a pretty good indication of the need for just such an organization. A survey of the daily mail shows that the majority of inquiries come from people who have always lived in cities, but who wish to obtain small pieces of land near the larger cities. Truck farming and poultry raising are the most popular occupations. The questions are very general, and many people want information about more than one state. The Homeseekers' Bureau wishes to encourage people to write more specific questions as it believes that in this way it can be of greater service.

If the man who wants to raise wheat on the plains of Minnesota or start an apple orchard in Oregon will give some information about his experience and ability, and the amount of money he wants to invest, the bureau will be able to help him much more in the light of these facts.

So far the mail has shown that quite a number of women are very much interested in raising some kind of farming. They seem partial to live-stock breeding and poultry raising. Experience has proved that women are very well adapted to poultry raising, and in particular to all kinds of dairy work.

Several persons have written asking how to get work on farms. Such a request is a little out of line, but as the Homeseekers' Bureau takes an interest in every potential farmer, it will do what it can for those who wish to get some practical experience. In matters of this nature it will co-operate with the United States Employment Service.

Chambers of Commerce, Trade Boards, Community Centers and newspapers are asked to co-operate with the Homeseekers' Bureau and to supply whatever information they can for the benefit of those who are seeking new homes. At the present time the Bureau is unable to give full information to its correspondents because the reports from the railroad agricultural agents is not available for distribution. By spring the bureau will be in a position to handle all inquiries. For the time being, it is sending out whatever literature it has on hand, and filing the inquiries, which will be answered more fully at the earliest opportunity.

POO-BAH MORRIS AND HIS STORM SEWER RAKEOFF

A SUNDAY SERMON.

No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or he will hold to the one and despise the other. Matt. 6:24.

The text is a part of the Sermon on the Mount. The Great Teacher himself proclaimed it as a fact in human nature, and drew the conclusion from that fact that man cannot serve God and mammon at the same time. The business sense of the modern world confirms and acts on this precept of the Sermon on the Mount. Where they trust a man with great responsibility they generally demand his undivided service. The United States has held that no citizen can hold two paid federal offices at the same time. The states have followed the same wise course. The courts have upheld it in both state and nation. The policy is based on the theory that no man can serve two masters, and the man undertaking such a double service will neglect one and favor the other, more or less.

Martin L. Morris, superintendent of city water works and department treasurer of Gerhartz-Jaqueth Engineering company, residing at 915 Fifth avenue north, as the city directory describes him, is a remarkable man. He is a great and successful engineer. He has successfully established a pipe line tapping the city treasury reservoir of cash for many years now, and thru that pipe line, and out of a spigot at the end of it, a steady and large flow of city taxpayers' dollars has regularly and persistently dropped into his private till. There was just one interruption in this steady flow, and that did not last long. When Mayor Fousek was elected mayor he started in to reduce city expenses, and he came to the conclusion that a big leak could be stopped up in the city engineer's department. Mr. Morris presided there at a salary of \$225 a month. Mayor Fousek let him go and put in L. B. Evenson, for 22 years employed in the engineering department of the Anaconda Copper company, and then serving as engineer at the copper plant in this city. The result was a terrible blow to the "tax boosters" in the council, and as soon as a new election gave them control of the council, Alderman Hubbard and his tax-boosting friends made a circuit around the cut-off the mayor had planted in the pipe line of Mr. Morris connecting with the city treasury, by electing him superintendent of the water plant at a salary of \$250 per month in spite of the mayor's protests. Here he bosses three electricians who probably know as much about their work as he does, and also bosses three men at the filtration plant, and thru the open spigot connecting his pipe line with the city treasury there comes to his ears, as he sits at his private business desk, the cheerful clink of two hundred and fifty silver dollars dropping into his till each month. But that is not all. Engineer Morris takes no stock in the theory that a man cannot serve two masters. Thru his private engineering firm, which he also serves, he is constantly reaching out pipe lines to take in other city treasuries far and near. He got to the Fort Benton city treasury the other day, we are told, for expensive counsel and advice. How he divides up his time between his city of Great Falls employer and his other employers we don't know. According to the eatching of the Sermon on the Mount, as between the city and his private engineering firm, he will give the best service to the one he loves the best. We will leave the public to guess which service has his warmest affection.

But we have said that Mr. Morris is a great engineer as well as a successful one. Other engineers have done as much as we have heretofore described in piping out the taxpayers' money into their private till. But the greatness of Engineer Morris lies in the fact that he conceived—and, by Heck, with the assistance of Alderman Hubbard and the other tax-boosting aldermen, he seems like to put over—a scheme to insert a second pipe line into our city treasury, while still keeping the first one open and clinking silver dollars into his till. And this second is no spigot line like the first. It is a conduit with a sluice gate at the end in his private office, capable of pouring out about \$2,000 a month into his pocket during the next six months, while the little spigot, only partially closed, keeps up its merry tinkle to the tune of \$100 a month.

At the last council meeting Alderman Hubbard presented a report recommending that Engineer Morris be employed to supervise the work of spending the \$235,000 recently voted for sewer bonds to construct a storm water sewer on the south side, and that he be paid five per cent of the cost of the work in lieu of salary, for furnishing plans and supervising the work, and that meantime his salary as superintendent of water-works go on, but cut down to a hundred dollars a month. Holy smoke! What a nerve these tax boosters have developed! If the work takes six months that would be a rakeoff of \$11,750, or nearly \$2,000 a month, provided the estimate cost is not exceeded. No wonder Alderman Sullivan, who seems not to be in entire sympathy

with the tax boosters' game, called the attention of the council to the fact that Engineer Morris had intimated to him that he would be entirely satisfied to have the little spigot line completely closed and the hundred per cent off, if the council opened up the big sluice gate of the new conduit into the reservoir of the people's tax money for him. Alderman Sullivan lives in a ward that is full of working men's homes, and he knows how they feel about boosting the taxes on them. But what is \$100 a month, paid for out of burdened taxpayers' money, between friends? Too small and petty a saving to bother about, and Chairman Hubbard and the tax boosters ignored the suggestion, which would at least have paid the salary of one policeman or fireman, and left the small spigot open. They put the report thru as drawn and Alderman Sullivan's name appears signed to it.

But there was one interesting fact to the taxpayers that did not appear in the report of Alderman Hubbard at all. It is this: The council has already paid for plans for this new storm sewer, and officially adopted them as satisfactory. They paid \$2,500 for them to Morrell & Nichols, city engineer experts of Minneapolis. They got a lot of advice besides on other things in city building thrown in for this \$2,500. This set of storm water sewer plans, and other plans, was an extravagance at that, because the city is already paying City Engineer Evanson a salary to do this work, and he is quite willing to do it, and fully competent to do it. So besides the \$12,000 or so which the city is to pay Engineer Morris for plans for storm sewers and supervision they have already paid a Minneapolis firm \$2,500 for plans they have adopted as satisfactory, and the city engineer a salary for doing this work they would not let him do. Great Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, if you don't wake up at the coming city election and throw out some of these tax boosters and replace them with expense reducers, it is not a two-mill, or twenty per cent increase, in your tax bill that you will get, but a forty or fifty per cent increase.

This whole proposition of paying a per cent on cost leads to graft and extravagance any way. The United States has just had that experience at Hog Island. As long as the supervising powers make more money by increasing the cost of public work paid for by the taxpayer, and human nature remains the same, public work construction will exceed the estimates. This proposition is a rotten one from every standpoint. We believe that the courts would enjoy it on a proper showing in the interest of a complaining taxpayer.

ARMENIA'S PLIGHT.

The terrible and appalling situation in Armenia and the near east so affects the Literary Digest that it gives a page of its last issue to urging liberal contributions to the present drive for funds for the far east. The Digest heads a subscription list with \$5,000. The details of the sufferings of the Armenians, Syrians and others at the hands of the Turks are so horrible that they are hardly readable to us living in safety and honor in this land. They are enough to give a sensitive person nightmare dreams. Yet we know they are stern facts and in that distant land people have suffered in ways we cannot bear to read of or think about. How much harder it is to bear these tortures than to read about them. The people of Great Falls have given liberally in the past to ease sufferings far less acute. We have given so much and so often that it is not strange that being far removed from these things we become a little weary in well-doing, as the apostle described the feeling long ago. It requires a vivid realization of the facts to spur our jaded altruism, and painful as the process of reading about these horrors is, we should know of them. The Literary Digest says:

"Four million Armenians, Syrians and other war sufferers in western Asia are practically without food, clothing or shelter, the vast majority helpless women and children. More than a million and a half have been deported. Nearly a million have been brutally murdered and massacred. Four hundred thousand children are orphaned. It can be said that there are practically no more children left under the age of five, all having perished from exposure and disease. For every hundred births there are from two to three hundred deaths. The newly-born children die almost immediately, their mothers having nothing to give them but tears. Deaths from dysentery, typhus, tuberculosis and famine are increasing from day to day with appalling rapidity. The homeless—a pitiful stream of women and children—wander aimlessly thru the streets of their wrecked villages. If you stop a child toward evening, and ask him where he is going he will tell you, 'I am searching for a place to sleep.'"

"Now is our opportunity to show these lands, made luminous by the footprints of Christ and the apostles, what our Christianity of the west means today. Now is the time when these places of sacred history should receive a new sanctification by the service of God's children in the 20th century. With a Christlike healing of the sick and feeding the hungry, we will make a royal highway for our Lord into the grateful hearts of these people, along which the King of Glory may come with his message of love and light."

CLASS SELECTS OFFICERS.

Special to The Daily Tribune.  
Chinook, Jan. 25.—The Royal Circle Bible class held a business meeting Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Pierson and elected officers as follows for the ensuing year: President, Aimee Rush; vice-president, Helen Bush; secretary, Lizzie Bowen; assistant secretary, Whiteford Rector; treasurer, Lizzie Thibodeau. A social committee was appointed, consisting of Katherine Esbey, Bessie Easterbrook and Sam Clark.

CHINOOK WOMAN DIES.

Chinook, Jan. 25.—Mrs. Owen Wynnee, living northeast of Chinook, died suddenly yesterday at 6 a. m. after a brief illness. She was 42 years of age. She is survived by her husband.

OFFICIALS AT CONVENTION.

Special to The Daily Tribune.  
Bozeman, Jan. 25.—County Commissioners Scott Duncan and James E. Moore and County Clerk and Recorder Dave S. McLeod were in Livingston this week attending the meeting of county officials. Samuel N. Covan, county assessor, went to Helena for the meeting of assessors with the tax commission.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

Special to The Daily Tribune.  
Lewistown, Jan. 25.—A marriage license has been issued to James W. Gardipee and Miss Clemens Doney, both of Landusky.

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TRAVELETTE

By NIKSAH

Skyscrapers of Canton.

"A blue sink of yellow devils"—it is thus that Canton, China, has been labeled by a civilization whose every sense is offended by this ancient city. where there are more people to the square yard than in any other city in the world and more evil to the square inch. In Canton's vast honeycomb of fifty streets only eight feet wide, three million people manage to exist within a radius of 12 miles. Most of the crowded houses are only one-story high. They reek of sandalwood and the fumes of opium. The unpleasant odors of fried onions and chow-puppies steam from many shops among them. Conspicuous among these slovenly hovels rise pagodas and pawnshops—the skyscrapers of this Saticum city of the Orient. The pagodas are the most attractive and graceful things about Canton, and it is believed among the yellow-skinned inhabitants that the good fortune of Canton is connected with the most famous of these—the five-storied pagoda. All strangers are taken to see this pagoda from which an exceptionally fine view of the city may be obtained. Other picturesque Oriental skyscrapers are the Flowery pagoda—all crisply curled and crimped red rooflets—and the nine-storied octagonal pagoda of similar style, which was built over 13 centuries ago. The Mohammedan Mosque is 160 feet high and is very attractive in its architecture. It is over 1000 years old, and was built by adventurous Arabs of Canton. But the most interesting of Canton's skyscrapers are the huge pawnshops—veritable temples of Mammon—whose severely plain, long walls stretch up into the air above the opium vapors and wild noises of the streets. In case of marriage or death, it is to these pawnshops that the wretched poor come, and pawn whatever goods they may possess in order to secure the funds for the pompous ceremonies which they believe necessary for the occasion. In the sweltering heat of early summer they pawn their winter clothing in the tall, grim shops. As the seasons roll by they pawn first one and then the other set of wearing apparel. In Canton the inhabitants never worry about moth or trunk—the pawnshops do it all for them.

SEARCHLIGHT.

The shotguns used by the American forces in Germany were the first arms of this kind ever used by regular forces in war. They were automatic and side-acting repeating arms, exactly like those used by American duck shooters, except that they were shorter and equipped with bayonets. In respelling charges, they were wonderfully effective.

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