

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL PAGE

THE PROFITEERING OF JOSEPH

A SUNDAY SERMON

And there was no bread in all the land, for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine. And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. And when money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all of the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence, for the money faileth. And Joseph said, Give your cattle and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail. And they brought their cattle unto Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses, and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year. And when that year was ended they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, now that our money is spent. My lord also hath our herds of cattle. There is not aught left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and the land be not desolate. And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them, so that the land became Pharaoh's. And Joseph bought the people: for he held I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh, so here is seed for you and ye shall sow the land. And it shall come to pass in the increase that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your household and for food for your little ones. And they said, thou hast saved our lives, let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.—Gen. XLVII, 13-26.

Some people may think that the profiteer is a new development of modern industrial and commercial conditions. Profiteering is old as the history of man. The Bible story above related took place many thousands of years ago. It was the result of a corner in wheat cunningly arranged by Joseph in years of plenty when wheat was cheap and he persuaded the king to speculate in it and squeeze the shorts when it was dear and scarce, which he did without mercy till he stripped them bare of the last vestige of property they had, and even made them sell themselves to the king for slaves in order to get bread. It was some corner, all right. It was some squeeze, all right. It was some profiteering, all right. In fact it takes the cake for all these things, the biggest cup of its kind in history. The profiteers of today are mere pikers alongside of Joseph and his royal baker, the king of Egypt.

Now Joseph was a good man the Bible tells us. He was virtuous we know, because there was the incident of Mrs. Potiphar who "cast her eyes upon Joseph" when she discovered that "Joseph was a goodly person and well favored," and finding that this solicitation of the eyes was not sufficient to overcome his stern virtue proceeded to shameless speech and even personal contact to win him, only to be turned down hard, for the Bible informs that "he left his garment in her hand and fled forth" from the house and seductive temptation. A good Puritan was Joseph, but he was to find that "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" as the poet says. Of course, he had not said it then, for this sensational scene was enacted before the day of Shakespeare. At any rate virtue was its own reward in that case for Joseph got thrown into jail over it. Perhaps it was that experience that made him so hard hearted afterwards, and in the vile dungeon in which he languished he resolved never again to let principle and virtue lead him astray. At any rate when he got out and into the favor of the king of Egypt, he put over about as villainous a scheme as the most wicked profiteer could ever have devised. During seven good harvest years he gathered wheat and stored it away and other foodstuffs, too. The Bible tells us that "he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities. The food of the field that was round about every city, laid he up in the same. And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering, for it was without number." Joseph was a pious man as well as a prince of profiteering. Pharaoh, his master, recognized his piety. Perhaps he had heard the story of Mrs. Potiphar, for Captain Potiphar was an officer of his household, "a captain of the guard," who had bought Joseph from the Ishamelites to whom his jealous brethren who envied him his fine clothes and coat of many colors had sold him. At any rate we are told that when Pharaoh concluded to go into this food profiteering speculation at the advice of Joseph "he said unto his servants, can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the spirit of God is. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph: Forasmuch as God has showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art. Thou shalt be over my house and according to thy word shall my people be ruled. Only on the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, see, I have set thee over all Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it in Joseph's hand and arrayed him in vestments of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck, and he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had, and they cried before him, Bow the knee. And he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt."

Pious Joseph! Well favored and good looking too, and dressed in all the finery of the royal court of Egypt and kingly power to work good or evil in his hands. If he captured the heart of Potiphar's wife when he was a slave what a wrecker of fair women's hearts he must have made now. But he was not that kind of a vil-

lian. We almost wish he had fallen victim to the wiles of Potiphar's wife for he was busy working out a far more black hearted crime. He was planning to starve a whole nation into poverty and slavery, stripping them naked of all that makes life worth living for and not excepting liberty itself, for the benefit of a rich speculator and his own great profit. The Bible story carries the inference that Almighty God, the Jehovah of the Jews, suggested the scheme to Joseph and helped him in its execution. It must be a slander on the goodness of God, for the scheme Joseph suggested and carried out was black as hell itself and vile in its studied cruelty and wickedness. He was coining the tragedy and grief of famine stricken people into money. He was robbing the drouth stricken farmers of Egypt of the poor remnants of their former prosperity. He was hoarding food for famine prices. He was a profiteer enriching himself and his royal partner on the suffering and distress of a whole nation. Pious and well favored Joseph discloses an ugly face in this Bible tale. He surely does. No gold chains or fine linen raiment, or puritan principles, or callous indifference to female wiles, can hide the villainy of his heart.

There is nothing new under the sun, wrote Solomon many centuries after Joseph's time. The people of the United States are talking much these days about the wickedness of food speculators who they tell us have been buying it and storing it away in order to create a scarcity and charge famine prices for their hoards. It is even alleged that in some lines of perishable foods like fruits they have willfully destroyed large consignments rather than allow them to go on the market and lower the price by over-supply. They charge the Chicago packers with trying to emulate the feat of Joseph and Pharaoh by getting control of practically all the food products of the nation with the purpose of enhancing the price and increasing the cost of living. We do not know whether these charges are founded on truth or not, but we do know that a good many citizens believe them to be true and are very angry and much stirred up about them. They are not made of the stuff that the Egyptians were made of, and not inclined to meekly become the slaves of profiteers in order that they may live and the land be saved from desolation. They are not going to bow the knee before any Josephs and say, "Thou hast saved our lives; let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." Far from it. They are more likely to send such Josephs back to the jail from which he was taken by Pharaoh to meditate on the foolishness as well as the wickedness of such crimes against society.

But first we would like to be sure that such crimes are committed. Then we are ready to deal justice to the criminals. And right here we strike a difficulty. Sensation mongers and demagogues with a selfish and personal axe to grind are always ready to make sensational charges of this kind, especially against big business and men who are rich and prosperous. We would like to be sure of our ground and know beyond a doubt who the profiteers are and the evidence of their guilt. That done the remedy will be speedy and drastic in our opinion. Now we have been investigating the high cost of living for several years. Congressional and legislative committees, labor union committees, business men's committees, governors, mayors, councilmen, economic experts and the lord knows how many other public and private bodies, have been investigating it for the last five years, and the cost of living has been steadily rising all the time they were investigating and passing resolutions and laws and making reports. We would like, for instance, to know with certainty what responsibility, if any, attaches to the great meat packing business in Chicago for the soaring prices of food products. Congress has been investigating them for a decade at least and we have had all sorts of contradicting reports about their doings. As long ago as when Roosevelt was president Mr. Garfield investigated them and told us that they were selling their meats at an unbelievably small margin of profit. Three per cent we believe he said. His report was received with a howl of derision at that time. Then we were told by another investigating committee that their books were so crookedly fixed up to conceal the facts that no one could tell what their profits were. Later we were told that they made very small profits in the meat, according to their books, but made enormously big profits on their by-products through subsidiary corporations that dealt in glue, hides, bone buttons and dozens and scores of other things which were by-products of meat. It seems as though these things could all be brought out into the light of day by expert investigators who were on to their job. And once the facts are securely fixed it will not be hard to deal with food profiteers. We have progressed some in that direction since the simple days of Joseph. But this subject of alleged food speculation and profiteering needs exposure to the sun. All the secret places and dark places need opening up to the light of publicity. We want the facts rather than the suspicions of politicians to guide us. There is promise just now that we will get them. And when we have the facts once established, a remedy will march close on its heels. We are well assured of that.

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

BUSINESS WOMEN ORGANIZE

Washington, D. C., July 30.—That women are preparing to reap their share of the proceeds of our new world democracy, as evidenced by their recent establishment of a woman's chamber of commerce, with a national headquarters in Washington and branches in most of our large cities. They have even opened one in China, and South America is soon to boast several of them. Schools of salesmanship, with special courses in Spanish, French and possibly Chinese, are to be opened by the New York woman's chamber of commerce in the fall, with a view to training a whole army of women trade experts to be placed in foreign trade fields. These classes will be open to any woman who displays any special aptitude for business. She need not be a college graduate. Heretofore, many well-trained and talented women have been excluded from good positions thru the stipulation that all applicants must possess university diplomas. The woman's chamber of commerce thinks this is unfair and is going to attempt to put an end to it.

In fact, the woman's chamber of commerce, if enabled to carry out its program, is going to change a great many practices now in vogue with regard to the employment of women. It has been waiting patiently for the proper time to stage its campaign, and it believes that the time has arrived—that woman's hour has struck. Political equality is practically assured. Now the real battle for economic equality has begun. But the women are very indignant if you intimate that there is anything beligerent in what they are going to do. They are going to work hand in hand with the men, amicably and peaceably following admiringly in their footsteps and united in a common cause—the promotion of American business prosperity. Incidentally, the organization is especially interested in the promotion of its own sex. It stands for the encouragement of women in all lines of activity, the best interests of womanhood in the United States and other countries, which means, among other things, the entrance of women into all occupational pursuits—field, factory, forum, home, hospital, laboratory, mining, surveying, aviation, school, store, shop, social center and institution, court, club, studio and pulpit.

The woman's chamber of commerce is the latest and most significant manifestation of the feminist movement. It shows that women have at last clearly grasped the fact that business is the controlling element in the world today—that the production of goods is an enterprise in which they legitimately figure and in which they should therefore be expected to be as competent as are men. Women can support themselves comfortably by producing almost anything from temporary nails to novels, and they intend to do it at the same time not denying to their sisters the right to be supported by men while they are bringing splendid healthy children into the world. For centuries it has been commonly accepted that children were women's chief interest in life.

"Thus it happens," said the young feminist, as she played with a heavy paperweight which was holding down a pile of bills of lading on her desk, "that more and more women are going into business, not with the idea of meeting a possible future husband, but to stay in business and make money in it. It is useless to pretend that this will not change the old order of things, but there is every reason to believe that the new order will be better." The scope of the woman's chamber of commerce is extremely broad. It embraces not only the economic welfare of women, but their physical and spiritual welfare as well. In some of the chambers, reading rooms have already been established, containing books, magazines, newspapers, bulletins, pamphlets, leaflets, charts and maps dealing with current events and with subjects of special interest to women. The organization has also created a committee to survey existing educational opportunities for women, and to encourage night schools, afternoon study sessions, work internal classes, vocational training, arts and crafts instruction, high school study and university extension.

Moreover, the chamber places great emphasis upon health. Health talks for women have been held in many cities, and plans are being formulated for the maintenance of athletic clubs and gymnasiums in connection with the various local headquarters, as well as clinics where women will be cared for by efficient women doctors. Conditions surrounding industrial workers will be investigated and reported upon, while everything will be done to stimulate recreation among women, such as boating, swimming, skating, golfing, tennis and gardening. In towns of limited recreational opportunities, the local chamber will endeavor to secure the cooperation of the men's chamber of commerce in establishing new ones.

GENERAL LOGAN'S WIDOW DECORATED



Mrs. John A. Logan. The Belgian legation has notified Mrs. John A. Logan, widow of General Logan, U. S. A., that she has been awarded the Belgian medal of Queen Elizabeth by the king and queen of Belgium for work as chairman of the Washington committee for Belgian relief.

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SCIENTIFIC FACTS
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The Kongo river and its tributaries provide more than 9,000 miles of waterways navigable to steamboats of shallow draft.
After long and serious experiments an Italian scientist has decided that dogs wag their tails for conversational purposes.
Safety gloves for machinists have been invented, made of chrome leather and sewed with steel wire so that they will not rip.
For light automobiles a detachable support has been invented to enable running boards to carry heavier loads than ordinarily.
Only indifferent results have attended efforts to cultivate tobacco in Scotland altho the soil and climate seem suitable.
An Indianapolis inventor has patented hob-nailed sandals that can be laced to a man's shoes when it is desirable to wear them.
Johannesburg capitalists have formed a company to establish aeroplane passenger service among a number of South African points.
A California ranchman cools his house in the hottest weather by spraying its roof with water on its way to irrigate his orange grove.
The Spanish government is supporting private plans to introduce cotton growing on an extensive scale in the Spanish area of Morocco.
The inventor of a new spark plug for internal combustion engines claims it shoots a ribbon of flame instead of a round thread of fire.
Greece has adopted a standard time which saves half an hour of daylight and brings that nation within the zone of eastern European time.
A patent has been granted for a chain with a screw on one end and a clamp on the other to fasten a telephone directory to a desk or wall.
The world's rarest plant is the silver-sword, a species of cactus that grows only on the most inaccessible slopes of volcanoes in Hawaii.
More manganese ore was mined in the United States last year than ever before, Montana producing more than all the other states combined.
An American expert has found that a binding twine fiber can be obtained from the cubilla plant, which grows wild in the Dominican republic.
One of the new electric motor driven washing machines washes clothes in a revolving tank, then frees them from water in a centrifugal dryer.
By a new European process are lamp carbons are mechanically covered with a thin coating of metal, which then is thickened by electroplating.
To save space the top of a new photograph cabinet slides to one side with the instrument it carries, giving access to the records it contains.
New tiling for walls and ceilings has grooved edges that fit together and is attached by metal fasteners that enter the back of each tile, saving the use of cement.
Scientists in New Zealand are studying the possibility of producing pig iron on a large scale there by electricity as much ore and ample water power are available.
To extinguish fires in coal piles an inventor has patented a pointed pipe that can be driven into the coal and connected to hose to convey water to the desired place.

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TRAVELETTE
By NIKSAH.
CHAN-CHAN.

Chan-Chan is not, as the name would indicate, a place in China. It is one of the oldest cities in Peru, or in the world. The Chimus who built Chan-Chan are supposed to have been an elderly race when the Incas were yet barbarians. After a time the Incas became civilized and powerful and captured Chan-Chan. Then Pizarro came to plunder and wreck the city and massacre the inhabitants. So much of the Chimu history is deduced from the remains of Chan-Chan and old Spanish narratives. The people who inhabited the old metropolis were moon worshippers. The moon, they said, was the most worthy deity of nature, for it shone not only at night but also in the day, whereas the sun could shine in the day only. The sea was supposed to be under the special protection of the moon, because the latter controlled the tides. Images of fish and other sea creatures, and temples to both moon and sea were therefore built by the Chimus and many have been uncovered in the ruins of their city. Chan-Chan has since the time of Pizarro been a heap of wreckage. There are palaces, workshops, factories and great battered pyramids built up in terraces and surmounted by buildings. These are the mounds in which the Chimu died once lay. Like the Egyptians, these people buried with their dead many articles of their personal property. From one of these mounds a Spanish adventurer obtained \$3,000,000 worth of gold and silver. For many years, Chan-Chan yielded to the Spanish conquerors fabulous sums of gold.

AS GORKY SEES IT.
Famed Revolutionist Gives Unflattering Picture of Bolshevism.
Probably not even the most extreme parlor radical will accuse Maxim Gorky, of "bourgeois" leanings, but the picture which this famed revolutionist gives of the workings of Bolshevism in Russia is as unflattering as any that a "capitalist age" has printed.
Gorky declares that the Russian people are hungry and often starving; that bitter strife is developing between skilled and unskilled workers; that the railroads are paralyzed; that thousands of "proletarians are being held in prison by the 'proletarian' dictatorship, and that human life is held as cheaply now as under the worst of the old regime.
There is small encouragement in this report of those who would bring class warfare to America. Every indication is that Bolshevism is burning itself out. The process may take time, but it is sure. In the long run, a civilized society cannot be maintained without the cooperation of those brain-workers whom the Leninists are trying to suppress by starvation and machine guns.—Chicago Journal.