

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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

LEONARD G. DIRHL,
Business Manager

EDITORIAL PAGE

A BAD FINANCIAL SITUATION

The citizens and taxpayers of the United States are called on to take note of a very serious financial situation. And when we use the plural term citizens and taxpayers we might as well make it singular, for citizens and taxpayers are practically identical. All citizens in the final analysis of taxes are taxpayers, because by far the greater portion of all taxes are shifted back to the consumer and become a burden on all citizens.

Chairman Mondell, of the house finance committee, has just given out to the public that the estimated revenue for the year 1921 (meaning the year that commences July 1, 1920, and ends June 30, 1921) will be more than three billion dollars less than the estimated expenditures for that year. The lower house of congress is primarily charged with the duty of raising revenue and making revenue and outgo balance. The present term which commences in December is the regular session of the new congress which is charged with the duty of providing for the government needs during the year 1920-1921. It should have a revenue bill prepared and passed by next March.

With a three billion dollar shortage between the estimated needed expenditures of the government in the year before us and the estimated receipts of the government, there are just three ways known to finance by which the budget of 1920-1921 can be made to balance. One is to cut down expenditures by three billion dollars. The second way is to increase taxes by three billion dollars, and the third way is to use both devices. That is to cut down expenditures for part of the deficit and raise revenues to wipe out the balance. Of course some people may say there is a fourth way and that is to run into debt for a part or all of the deficit. But that is not a solution of the problem of striking a balance between revenue and outgo. It is only a postponement of the solution which makes it harder to meet in the future.

The first solution would perhaps be the best if it were practicable and perhaps it is. That is the expedient of cutting down expenses of government by eliminating three billion dollars from the national budget. It could perhaps be done if congress had the Spartan virtue to do it. They might abolish the government printing office and the Congressional Record which costs the nation a vast sum annually. They might give up their franking privilege in the mails which costs another vast sum annually. They might cut out a host of pages and employes in both houses which are unnecessary, abolish numerous secretaries, lawyers, stenographers, and committee expenses which are more or less unnecessary and useless. They might substitute actual expenses for mileage at 20 cents a mile between their homes and Washington at every session of congress. And having thus demonstrated their willingness to self sacrifice in the interests of economy at home they could go through all the executive and administrative offices and departments at Washington with an axe and cleaver and cut out scores and hundreds of millions of salaries and expense, perhaps simplifying and reducing government functions until half the deficit was eliminated. Then by refusing to appropriate for many worthy and needed improvements in public affairs, and new services on the part of the government for its people, it might be that the three billion dollar deficit would totally disappear. There is no sign that congress as it is constituted today possesses the Spartan virtue which would be necessary to put through such a program. Besides it would make many people mad as hornets and congress is facing a presidential election and looking for votes instead of such unpopular action as would drive them away. The scheme of wiping out the deficit by economy is scarcely practical as we said, albeit there is no doubt it is the soundest business solution of the mess we are in.

There remains the solution of raising taxes (and also by the same token the cost of living). That also for several reasons appears impracticable. One reason is that taxes are already so high on the larger revenue ranges that there is serious doubt if the further increase would not reduce revenue instead of raising it. In the lower incomes, where the rate is more moderate, they might be raised some, but that again would involve protest and loss of votes to the party responsible for it and in view of the approaching election such action on the part of congress is unthinkable.

And if there is to be no raise in the tax burdens and no material reduction in expenses on the part of the government there remains only the futile expedient of borrowing more money and postponing the evil day of settlement. We

predict that this is what congress will decide on. They may not authorize a new bond issue. That calls the attention of the citizens too sharply to what is going on. But they will appropriate more money than the government receives and leave the administration to carry the debt by issues of certificates mortgaging the revenue of future years, and so get past the critical days of next November when the citizens have opportunity to render judgment on the actions of their representatives in congress. In other words they will dodge once more and pass the buck, hoping that no notice will be taken of their evasion of their responsibilities.

MEXICO AND PROPAGANDA.

The readers of The Tribune are advised to accept with some reserve all Mexican news which appears in the columns of this newspaper or any other newspaper. The truth about things that are happening in Mexico or have happened in Mexico is mighty hard to learn with any certainty that it is not colored to suit the purposes of the parties who send it out. This may seem a strange assertion. Our readers may ask why does not The Associated Press or some of the big newspapers send a representative to Mexico to send out the uncolored truth about conditions there. They would not be allowed to do so if they were sent and could find out the truth. There is a Mexican censorship on news coming from that country to begin with. Then there are a lot of liars in Mexico and outside of it to end with. A newspaperman with every intention of telling the press of the United States the pure unadulterated facts about things being done in Mexico cannot be everywhere present and see and hear everything for himself and his information as to what he did not see and hear is often poisoned at its source because of the needs of propaganda publicity. There are a good many American financial interests in Mexico which are exceedingly anxious to bring about American intervention in Mexico. Senator Fall recently declared that he was not desirous of American intervention in Mexico, and the Kaiser William has assured the world he never wanted to begin a war in Europe but it was forced on him by Russia, England, and France. But innocent as Senator Fall may be in proposing a joint resolution of congress requesting President Wilson to break off diplomatic relations with Mexico, which is equivalent to a declaration of war, it is a sure thing that a good many people who have property interests in Mexico would be mighty happy if Uncle Sam would go into that unhappy country with a big army and straighten out its affairs. Will Irwin, a well known newspaper correspondent, who knows a good deal about Mexico, recently wrote in an eastern newspaper this little brochure on Mexico and things Mexican:

"Mexico lies to the south, rich and undeveloped. A few interested persons in the United States would like to have us send an army to grab Mexico, thereby furnishing them with business openings.

"To themselves, of course, they are not vicious in intention. They really believe that the Mexicans in the end would like to be taken over and taught to eat nut sundaes, wear ready-made clothes and play baseball. And it would be good business. Naturally, the Mexicans think otherwise.

"Now the great body of popular opinion in the United States runs, fortunately, counter to such a proposition. We as a people seem to believe that self-determination begins near home. Suppose, however, that the gentlemen of invidious intentions on Mexico should raise a large slush fund and get at the source of public opinion? They would begin probably by magnifying every tiny incident between a Mexican and an American into an episode of international importance. Always they would so report it as to put the Mexican in the wrong. They would follow by painting on the public mind a picture of the Mexican as a low, dangerous creature who must be roped and hog-tied for our own protection. They would spread rumors and hints—such as the recent untrue report that Japan had obtained a foothold in Lower California. Then some day, the serious incident, either accidental or stage-managed—and then a war of conquest which we might be persuaded to call a crusade.

"This is not likely to happen, I am glad to say, but it is not impossible, either; and it illustrates the origin and uses of hate propaganda."

GETS NO BETTER FAST.

The war news from Prussia is sometimes bad, but generally worse.

OLD STUFF, DUD, OLD STUFF.

Dudley Field Malone says he didn't do it. That's what they all say.

BUT WE DON'T DRINK WAGON

It would take an expert to distinguish a near-beer wagon from a beer wagon.

ACTIONS HAVEN'T IMPROVED EITHER.

We can't see that old Carranza is any better looking in his latest photographs.

ALL THEY WANT IN OUR FLAG!

Copyright, 1919, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World)

By J. H. Cassel



HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

EIGHTY-FIVE CENT COTTON.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Perhaps the most striking triumph ever achieved by science as applied to farming is now being celebrated in the Salt River Valley in Arizona. The farmers are doing the celebrating. They can afford to celebrate because they are getting for their cotton the almost fabulous price of 85 cents a pound.

Cotton at this price is the new El Dorado of the west, and fertile vineyards, orange groves and alfalfa fields are being uprooted that the new crop may be given an opportunity to enrich the holders of these once-desert lands, now made productive by irrigation. Farmers have repeatedly made ten thousand dollars a year on a fifty-acre field given over to this grade of cotton.

Its cultivation, as an example of the application of science to the tilling of the soil, is probably without an equal in the success with which it has been carried out, and in the promise of a permanent industry which it offers.

The ultimate product is cord tires for American automobiles and sewing cotton for the needles of the American housewives. For the cotton grown in Arizona is the best cotton in the world and these are the two important products which call for cotton of great strength and durability.

Here is an industry which has resulted from taking thought, and from pursuing one purpose unwaveringly for two decades. Twenty years ago the departments of agriculture found, down in Egypt, a grade of cotton that brought better prices on the market than did any other cotton, with the possible exception of Sea Island cotton, of which limited amounts were grown in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

The United States, the greatest of cotton raising countries, had allowed itself to be outstripped in growing this thread cotton. Agricultural explorers were sent to Egypt and brought home quantities of the seed of the choice long staple varieties. These were distributed through the cotton regions of the south. They did not do well. They had been accustomed for generations to the dry air and the irrigation of Egypt. They required a longer growing season than that of the southern states.

The representatives of the department of agriculture turned their attention to the far southwest, where conditions more nearly approximated those of Egypt. Arizona had the dry air, the long growing season, the irrigation. Would Egyptian cotton grow there? Would it sufficiently profitable to displace those alfalfa fields, which yielded six crops of hay per year and from one to two tons per crop? Only experiment would show.

The best Egyptian cotton was taken to Yuma, Arizona, and there propagated. The yield was ragged and unlike that on the Nile. The stranger reported itself peculiarly in its new home.

There were isolated plants which were satisfactory. The scientific farmers selected these plants and propagated them. In the subsequent crop a greater number of the plants were satisfactory. Those with satisfactory yields and stable were again selected and propagated. After ten years of this sort of selective growing a distinctive variety of cotton was developed that was quite different from Egyptian. It was called Yuma cotton.

Yuma is down in the corner of Arizona, just across the river from the great desert of southern California, in the hottest part of the United States. Up in the middle of the state is Sacton reservation, where reside certain Indian wards of the government. They have artesian wells and fertile lands. The government has an experiment station there. Hundreds of miles of barren lands stretch in every direction. There is consequently no possibility of a pure strain of cotton becoming contaminated.

The scientific men at Sacton took the Yuma cotton as a basic stock and began to build upon it. They selected plants with certain desirable qualities and mated them, year after year. So yet another variety of cotton was developed. It was called "Pima," from the Indians of the neighborhood. It is a better cotton than the Yuma. It is undoubtedly a better cotton than the best varieties of Egyptian. It is probably the best variety of cotton in all the world.

Near Sacton Indian reservation is Salt River Valley. Here a strip of land 20 miles wide and 50 long is watered by the famous Roosevelt reservoir. It is a valley built up of silt washed down from the mountains. It is level but gently sloping. It used to be an uninhabited sagebrush plain but was long ago brought under irrigation. It is the model irrigation project of them all and one of the most productive stretches of farming land in all the world. It used to be planted in alfalfa, fruit trees and sugar beets.

In this valley farmers began, six years ago, to grow Pima cotton experimentally. The success was immediate, and the returns were greater than from any other crop. Each year saw the number of acres doubled. Each year saw methods improved and profits increased.

Last year nearly a hundred thousand acres of Pima cotton were under cultivation in this valley. Next year there will be 150,000 acres. This will be the maximum. It will be half the land in the valley and the other half must be devoted to raising the necessities of the region—grain, hay, fruit, vegetables.

A good farmer in Salt River valley grows a bale of cotton to the acre. It weighs 500 pounds which, at eighty cents a pound amounts to \$400. It costs \$125 an acre to grow the crop, the rest is being \$275 an acre profit. The poor farmer makes half a bale to the acre, or 250 pounds, worth \$200 and a mere \$75 an acre profit. So, everybody is going into cotton.

The great trouble in Egypt, the great trouble in the cotton growing states, is in keeping a variety of cotton pure. If Pima cotton were grown in one field and ordinary cotton in another on the next farm, a honey bee would ply its trade in the field of scrub cotton and get pollen all over its legs. Then it would fly over in the field of Pima, bore into a blossom and deposit some of the scrub pollen. The cotton resulting would be a cross between the two varieties, and this is the way plants mate. The strain of Pima would thus deteriorate. Egyptian cotton on the Nile is suffering this sort of degeneration.

But in Arizona there is but one strain of cotton. If a farmer should plant any other variety a vigilance committee would wait on him. The farmers are bound together in their determination to maintain the purity of their cotton. They get eighty cents while the other fellows

get forty cents. Their prosperity depends on keeping the cotton pure. The method of these farmers gladdens the hearts of the scientists. They set aside certain fields for seed. Then the plants in those fields are nearing the period of blossoming, experts go through them and cut down every stalk that is not up to standard. No weeding plant is allowed to reproduce itself. Here is farming carried on just as the department of agriculture would have it done. The advisability of this sort of farming is shown in the returns from it in dollars and cents.

More Butte Mines to Reopen Monday

Butte, Dec. 19.—Following the announcement last night that the Emma and East Colusa mines of the Anaconda Copper Mining company would resume operations Saturday, John Gilie, general manager of mines for the company, said tonight that two additional mines, the Badger State and the West Gray Rock would be opened Monday, and that the remainder of the Anaconda company mines would be in operation the day after Christmas, which will provide employment for thousands of men who have been idle since the fuel famine set in. The smelters of the company in Great Falls and Anaconda also soon will resume work, but the exact date has not yet been announced.

Missoula Firemen Ask for \$5 Per Day

Special to The Daily Tribune. Missoula, Dec. 19.—Missoula firemen and policemen have appealed to the city council for an increase in pay from \$1,500 a year to \$5 a day, the wage paid to common labor by the city. They cited the responsibility that goes with their jobs and that they had to purchase "expensive uniforms."

Twin Cities Papers Get Erroneous Idea

Special to The Daily Tribune. Livingston, Dec. 19.—Farmers are killing cattle and feeding them to hogs in Montana, is the statement made in Twin City papers, according to a telegram to the local manager of the Thompson Yards company from the St. Paul manager, asking him to verify or contradict the news dispatches. The local manager assured his St. Paul superior that beef had not become hog feed in this state.

GRANTS DIVORCE DECREE.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Lewistown, Dec. 19.—Judge Briscoe has just entered a decree of divorce in the case of Pauline Hatton against Clyde Hatton, heard by him last July. The decree is granted on the ground of failure to provide and the plaintiff awarded \$20 a month alimony for the support of herself and child. The parties were married at Harlowtown in 1916.

REMOVES TO TEXAS.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Lewistown, Dec. 19.—L. C. Bolles, long deputy in the office of the county surveyor, and who served 18 months in France as a lieutenant, is about to leave here for Brownsville, Texas, in a few days to become resident engineer for a large irrigation project.

Lewistown Expects to Train Hundreds of Teachers in 1920

Special to The Daily Tribune. Lewistown, Dec. 19.—Principal F. L. Cummings of the county high school, who is also president of the State Teachers' association, in an address at the Rotary club yesterday, outlined the plans for an enlarged summer training school for teachers here next summer. This would, he said, bring 500 teachers in here from Chouteau, Wheatland, Meagher and Fergus counties, while perhaps Phillips and Blaine counties would join. Under the new state law effective July 1 next, all Montana teachers will be required to take 12 weeks of normal training. The big school in Lewistown will be, said Professor Cummings, a great convenience to teachers in this part of the state who might otherwise have to make the long trip to Dillon for this work.

Montana Railroad Man Gets Colonelcy

Special to The Daily Tribune. Livingston, Dec. 19.—R. C. Johnson, who was superintendent of the Montana division of the Northern Pacific when he accepted a commission in October, 1917, has been promoted to colonel and given charge of all U. S. railroad troops in Siberia, according to a cablegram received by his wife from Irkutsk, Siberia. Colonel Johnson went to Siberia as a major.

PIONEER CONDUCTOR DIES AT MISSOULA

Special to The Daily Tribune. Missoula, Dec. 19.—John W. Johnson, a pioneer conductor of the Rocky Mountain division of the Northern Pacific, died at the railroad's hospital here this morning of heart disease after 42 years of age and his service as a freight conductor since 1904. He is survived by his wife, who resides here.

American Bank & Trust Co. of Great Falls

DIRECTORS: R. P. Reckards, H. G. Lesche, W. K. Flowerree, William Griffin, Fred A. Woshner, Charles R. Taylor, Frank W. Mitchell, Albert J. Foushee, H. E. Foster, Alfred Malmborg, Robert Cameron, Charles Hornberg, Charles E. Hestey.

Stanton Trust & Savings Bank

Capital \$200,000 Surplus \$55,000 DIRECTORS: J. O. Patterson, P. H. Buckley, James W. Freeman, Jacob C. Fay, Bart Armstrong, A. Beardsley, Philip Jacoby, M. S. Kiepp, P. H. Jones, S. J. Doyle, George H. Stanton. OFFICERS: President P. H. Jones, Vice-President S. J. Doyle, Cashier H. M. Emerson, Assistant Cashier

CHRISTMAS GIFTS New and Choice Lapeyre Bros.