GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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

LEONARD C. DIEHL, Business Manager

EDITORIAL PAGE

SAVING THEIR FACE

The Versailles treaty of peace is dead, Senator Lodge dramatically declared a few weeks ago. He added that it would never be brought before the senate unless President Wilson withdrew it and sent it back as a new treaty. Scarce four weeks have passed since this announcement from Mr. Lodge, and we now find him reporting favorably from the senate a resolution which confirms and ratifies the treaty of Versailles, but does not confirm and ratify the League of Nations, which is part and parcel of that treaty. The resolutions state specifically that this country ratifies and accepts the treaty so far as it provides for things of material advantage to us, but declines to be bound by any obligations in return. It does say, however, that this country would intervene in Europe again if it were necessary to save civilization and in general intimates that we would act as a sort of consulting member of the league with no obligations attached.

On the whole, it is a very cowardly resolution and gives evidence of a state of perturbation in the republican camp, and a desire to shelve the peace treaty issue before it gets into politics in the coming campaign . Lodge and his associates have evidently heard from their constituents during the congressional recess and come back much tamed and anxious to bring about peace while saving their face. A Washington correspondent thus discribes the situation in the senate:

Predictions that the senate's failure to ratify the treaty would disturb and depress business in this country and retard "reconstruction" in Europe are being fulfilled in a way that is alarming republican senators. The steady depreciation of foreign exchange, with its threat of curtailing the exportation of American products which Europe needs and which the exporters of this country must sell, if production is to continue, is but one effect of the treaty's defeat by the senate.

Among the signs of fear among republican senators who had the principal part in the smothering of the treaty is Senator Knox's proposal to ratify it now in all details, but after separating it from the covenant of the League of Nations. On its face this would not appear to be an evidence of weakness or surrender on the part of Senator Knox, but those who have followed his course while the treaty was before the senate regard it as a concession born of conviction that further delay in ratifying the treaty will bring calamity to American business and a day of reckoning for the republican cabal in the senate.

Senator Knox opposed not only the League of Nations, but also the treaty itself. In a formal speech carefully prepared in advance of its delivery, Mr. Knox declared the provisions of the treaty to be "harsh and cruel" to the German people. Previously he had sought the passage of a resolution to dissociate the treaty from the covenant of the League of Nations.

In addition to his change of view with regard to the treaty—which he is now willing to accept in all its prescriptions—Senator Knox has moved far enough from his former position to suggest that the United States become a "consulting member" of the League of Nations. Democratic commentators do not regard this as a big concession, of course, but they appreciate its importance when read in connection with the senator's previous hostility to both the treaty and the league.

No one expected Mr. Knox to reverse himself over night, or at all. He hasn't yet "about faced," but he has certainly executed a "right face"—with his eyes in the direction of a full turn. Senator Lodge continues to employ the language of opposition, but his manner is that of one who has concession in the back of his mind, in the opinion of those who have watched his recent maneuvers. In one of the latest discussions of the treaty in the senate, Mr. Lodge affected to scout the connection between the rejection of the treaty and the decline of foreign exchange, but it was apparent that he realized the result and others of a popular belief that there is a relation between the two.

Other republican senators appear to be disconcerted by the ruinous fall in the value of foreign money and foresee its effect on American business. It is believed that they are aware that if the senate's refusal to ratify the treaty is not the sole cause, it is a principal factor in the present demoralizing discount of sovereigns, francs, lire and marks. They seem to understand that a further depreciation of Europe's money will prevent buying here and that American production will slacken and beget unemployment and financial depression in the United States.

It would be too much to say that the republicans are showing signs of full retreat from their former position, but it is within the truth to say that they are planning for a "strategic retirement."

THE BERGER ELECTION

Victor Berger was re-elected to fill the vacancy caused by his own expulsion from congress on the ground of disloyal speech and conduct during the war. His majority over the republican fusion candidate who apposed him was about 5,000, very close to his former majority. Berger is under sentence of twenty years in jail for disloyalty. He got out on bail pending an appeal to a higher court against his sentence. One condition on which the judge granted him liberty on bail was his promise not to repeat his disloyal speeches during his liberty on bail. It is charged that he violated this pledge during the campaign, and it may be that his bail will be withdrawn and he will have to go back to jail pending his appeal. At any rate he will not be a member of this congress. He was rejected by an almost unanimous vote as unfit to hold a seat in congress by the same men who will pass on his new claim to a seat. He was not expelled from congress before on the ground of any doubt regarding his election. It was conceded that he was the choice of a majority of his constituency. He was expelled because every other congressman with a solitary exception felt that he was not a fit associate for loyal men, and congress is the sole jugde of the qualifications of its members. There can be no question that congress will repeal their former action in case Berger appears before them to claim a seat under the new election.

The election reflects sadly on the character of the citizens of the fifth Milwaukee congressional district. They desire to be represented by a convicted felon. It is true that most of them are of foreign birth, but there is little consolation in that. They are naturalized citizens or native citizens of the United States who voted for Berger and not aliens. They want that sort of a man. There is a lesson and a warning in it for all patriotic citizens of the United States. We have been too liberal with our citizenship in the past and as one result we have a lot of very bad citizens, and in one congressional district at least they are so numerous as to constitute a majority of the voters. Mr. Berger will not sit in congress. He is more likely to spend his time in jail. But a feeling of shame over the result of this election must find its place in all loyal American hearts. We are to blame in a way because it is possibl.e

THE WEATHER

The recent warm weather has been a Godsend to stockmen in these parts, not so much because it has resulted in baring some sidehills of snow and so giving cattle a chance to find a little feed for themselves, as because the moderate weather has helped the cattle to get along with less feed from the winter stores. Below zero weather coupled with short rations, saps the vitality of cattle fast. We are informed that there has already been considerable loss of stock, especially horses, in the range sections of the state.

On the other hand, the great amount of precipitation this fall and winter has left the ground pretty well soaked and with unusual reserves of moisture for spring planting. The farmers who have been short of moisture for three years now in their grain raising, look forward with hope to a good crop year in 1920. It is of course, too soon to make any predictions about that, but the fact that they are encouraged by the heavy snow falls is something gained. It will no doubt result in a very heavy acreage of spring planted grain. Farmers who are left badly in the hole by the last three years' operations in grain raising will make a desperate effort to pull themselves out by next year's crop. The fall planting was about 30 per cent short of the year before on account of lack of moisture to start the grain. This will also have a tendency to increase the spring crop. There will be a heavy demand for seed grain in the spring, and the forehanded man will supply his needs early this year.

The Opinions of Others

THEY SURE'D HAVE TO REJECT NEWT.
(New York Sun).

Secretary Baker urges an army of quality instead of an army of size. What he has in mind may be a regiment of Sergeant Yorks.

BE VERY NICE FOR POSTERITY.
(Arkansas Gazette.)

According to the present outlook prices may be normal in this country by the time the Irish question is settled.

NEVER BREAK THE SPEED LAWS.
(Ohio State Journal.)

The legislature's idea of rushing an important measure through is two or three months.

KEERFUL, LEN MAY BE BIG STICK.
(New York Telegraph.)

Senator Poindexter may not be superstitious, but he has begun to "knock Wood."

PASTE THIS IN YOUR HAT.
(Kansas City Star.)

A nation that is half producing, half striking and all consuming, cannot endure.

PASSING IT BACK!

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

By J. H. Cassel

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DRINK

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Dealers in denatured alcohol and wood alcohol in all parts of the country report a greatly increased demand for these chemicals. At the same time, many cases have come to the attention of the Internal Revenue bureau in which denatured alcohol or wood alcohol have been used as beverages. Just a few days ago a whole party of would-be merry-makers in Virginia were overcome as the result of drinking denatured alcohol. Not long ago a man drank a pint of wood alcohol and died promptly. Many persons have been blinded by drinking wood alcohol. And yet there is every evidence that the drinking of this fatally poisonous alcohol still goes on.

This drinking of poisons in the form of beverages promises to be one of the most serious problems created by prohibition. Everyone should be apprised of the risk he runs in drinking alleged alcoholic beverages, the purity of which is in no way guaranteed. You may know better than to drink wood alcohol, and yet you may be deceived into drinking it. Either wood alcohol or denatured alcohol can be bought by anyone for about a dollar a gallon. Pure wood alcohol both looks and smells much like ethyl or grain alcohol. A chemist can tell the difference by the odor, but few laymen can do so. Wood alcohol may readily be flavored and colored to resemble whisky, and preparations for the purpose of converting alcohol into whisky have even been put on the market. It is evident that a bootlegger, buying wood alcohol at a dollar a gallon, making it look like whisky and selling it for twenty dollars a gallon, would have a much more lucrative business than the bootlegger of honest booze. He would also have a safer one, for the prohibition held that the word "alcohol" as used in that measure refers only to ethyl or grain alcohol. Of course, the man selling the wood alcohol preparation would be committing fraud, selling an impure product, and possibly committing murder. But the point is that it would be easier for him to get and sell his stock.

It should be understood that the alcohol which was found in all alcoholic beverages before these became extinct was ethyl or grain alcohol. Wood alcohol is the only other alcohol which is common in commerce, and it is known technically as methyl alcohol. So-called denatured alcohol consists of a mixture of these two and of kerosene. Usually the ethyl alcohol is about ninety per cent, the kerosene perhaps one-half of one per cent, and the rest methyl alcohol. Methyl alcohol is the deadly element. Just why it is so poisonous the scientists do not know. They do know that when it oxidizes in the body it forms formic acid, and this destroys the optic nerve, causing blindness.

There seems to be a superstition current in some sections that methyl or wood alcohol is harmless if mixed with milk, but there is no truth in this, according to Dr. A. B. Adams, chief of the division of technology of the Internal Revenue bureau.

Dr. Adams is the man who has to pass upon all the applications for the use of non-beverage alcohol, and to analyze all the dopes and nostrums which are sent to him as suspected violations of the prohibition law. A visit to Dr. Adams' laboratory and store room gives one a powerful impression of the size of the job which the government has undertaken in the enforcement of the prohibition measure. For example, permits have already been granted to seventy thousand firms for the use of alcohol for non-beverage purposes. Some of these firms are large ones which put out many different products, so that the total runs into hundreds of thousands. The number of hair tonics alone is in the neighborhood of ten thousand. The Bureau of Internal Revenue has passed upon each of these, and upon tens of thousands of flavoring extracts, soda fountain syrups, patent medicines, and innumerable other concoctions, and has decided that they are legitimate, and cannot well be used for beverage purposes.

The method which the bureau recommends for the making of these things undrinkable is to put in each of them a certain quantity of some strong emetic. This would not only destroy their value as beverages, but would also keep them from doing much harm as poisons. The bureau has not the power, it appears, to enforce the use of emetics to make these substances undrinkable, but it suggests the use of them. If the manufacturer does not choose to accept this method of making his product a non-beverage, he must suggest another one equally good. Therefore bibblers of hair tonics and perfumes should not be surprised if these substances refuse to stay where they are put in the human system.

By its control of the distribution of alcohol, the bureau of course is able to control the legitimate manufacturer pretty effectively. No one can obtain the alcohol with which to make a hair tonic or a fruit syrup without a permit from the bureau. On the other hand, it is quite evident that the forces of the bureau are not sufficient to insure what is done with the alcohol after the manufacturer has got it. There was a recent case in New York in which a man got a very large quantity of alcohol for the manufacture of hair tonic. His formula for this purpose was all right. But the bureau was unable to find that he had made any hair tonic, while 117 barrels of the alcohol had disappeared in two weeks.

The enforcement of the proper use of alcohol by those who obtain it under permit will devolve largely upon state and local authorities, and so also will the prevention of all sorts of illicit operations. Of course, anything made and sold with alcohol in it is apt to come in due course to the attention of Dr. Adams. He now has a large store room filled with shelves, and the shelves filled with bottles, containing liquids. There are tens of thousands of bottles, and no two of them are alike. It is perhaps the greatest collection of bottled goods in the world. All of it has been sent in for analysis and most of it is under suspicion.

Very Little Bear Creek Coal Coming

Helena, Dec. 21.—Very little Bear Creek coal is moving in Montana, says M. H. Gerry, Jr., of Helena, state fuel administrator. He urges people not to wait for the Bear Creek coal but to get fuel if the opportunity presents itself. Shipments of Northern slack are being received in Helena and in other Montana communities.

TO VISIT IN FLORIDA.

Special to The Daily Tribune.

Malta, Dec. 21.—Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Trafton left for Florida Friday morning. They contemplate spending several months there.

MONTANA'S WOUNDED SOLDIERS EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE

Boys at Fort Sheridan Hospital Thank Montana Newspapers for Remembrances.

Special to The Daily Tribune.

Helena, Dec. 21.—Thanks on behalf of the wounded Montana soldiers at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, for the Christmas celebration tendered them by many Montana daily newspapers was expressed by one of them in Helena today through Chester Hoag of this city.

He was a sergeant in the First machine-gun battalion of the first division, "The First Suicide Club," as he laughingly phrased it here today.

"The boys in wheel chairs and those, who like me, have been confined to cots for months and have many months more of such life ahead of them, as I have, too, find time hangs heavy on their hands," Sergeant Hoag said.

He explained that they recently formed what they call the Montana club and are members of the Sheridan business club, an adjunct of the Chicago Businessmen's club and that the club holds meetings every two weeks or every month when they have a special program, a dinner and good time. There are between 40 and 50 Montanans there.

"We were sort of overlooked on Thanksgiving and did not have much of a time but the boys are looking forward to Christmas and they surely appreciate the kindness of the Montana men and newspapers who remembered them."

He is here on a furlough and will return shortly to Fort Sheridan, United States general hospital No. 28, where he will undergo X-ray treatments.

"Miss Seeley of Bozeman is taking care of the Montana men at the hospital and if any one wishes to send the men anything they may communicate with her," Sergeant Hoag said.

Sergeant Hoag's three gold stripes represent service in a machine gun organization with which he fought in the St. Mihiel and Argonne drives. His "outfit" has a history which dates back to the days of the revolutionary war.

Anticipate Floods From the Beartooth

Special to The Daily Tribune.

Billings, Dec. 21.—Water from the Beartooth range will be plentiful next year—so plentiful that floods may cause serious damage, according to reports from forest rangers. An unusual amount of snow has fallen in the mountains, it is stated, and while this assures good irrigation and plenty of feed for livestock in the forest, the foresters predict that streams will be swollen dangerously if the snow melts rapidly under chinooks and warm spring rains.

Abatement Cases . Are Not Instituted in Malta Matters

Special to The Daily Tribune.

Malta, Dec. 21.—Althought it had been rumored here that as the result of recent raids by the authorities abatement proceedings were to be instituted against buildings occupied by William Kjos, Warren Sowers and William Russell, in connection with bootlegging cases in the first two instances, and a gambling case as to the latter, County Attorney Gabriel has not filed any such cases and that in all probability none will be filed. However, he states, the bootlegging and gambling cases will be prosecuted to the limit.

Troops Leave Camps Following Return of Striking Miners

Butte, Dec. 21.—Detachments of the First infantry, stationed at Roundup, Red Lodge and Bear Creek during the coal strike, and a detachment of the Thirty-fifth infantry, stationed at Sand Coulee, arrived in Butte tonight en route to Camp Lewis. The troops are in command of Colonel F. C. Endicott. Commanders of each of the four detachments stated that no trouble was experienced between the soldiers and miners, citizens or operators and that every courtesy was shown them. The troops are scheduled to leave for Camp Lewis early in the morning.

American Bank & Trust Co. of Great Falls

DIRECTORS:
R. P. Reckards, H. G. Lescher, W. K. Flowerree, William Grills, Fred A. Woehner, Charles R. Taylor, Frank W. Mitchel, Albert J. Fousek, L. E. Foster, Alfred Malmberg, Robert Cameron, Charles Horning, Charles E. Heisey

OFFICERS:
R. P. Reckards.....President
W. K. Flowerree ..... Vice-President
H. G. Lescher.....Cashier
F. O. Nelson.....Assistant Cashier

Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

Stanton Trust & Savings Bank

Stanton Bank Building, Great Falls.
Capital $200,000
Surplus 55,000

DIRECTORS:
P. H. Buckley, J. O. Patterson, James W. Freeman, Jacob C. Fay, Bart Armstrong, A. Beardslee, Philip Jacoby, M. S. Kleppe, P. H. Jones, S. J. Doyle, George H. Stanton

OFFICERS:
George H. Stanton.....President
P. H. Jones.....Vice-President
S. J. Doyle.....Cashier
H. M. Emerson.....Assistant Cashier

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
New and Choice
Lapeyre Bros.