

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL PAGE

CONGRESS IS IN SESSION AGAIN.

Congress is once more in session and with the program of work before it, will be kept busy until after election unless it works more rapidly than it has heretofore. The six months of the special session resulted in less finished legislation than any previous record made by congress in the same time. It did practically nothing but talk. The regular session which commenced in December produced practically nothing up to the time of adjournment for the holidays. Now that congress is back to work again we may hope for a better record. Attorney General Palmer has just made public a special plan for a sedition law which will enable the government to prosecute citizens of the United States who are guilty of advocating the overthrow of the government by force. He made a similar plea months ago when the special session was in being, but congress was too busy with politics to heed his plea. There is nothing partisan about this matter. There is no doubt that ninety-five per cent of the voters approve of such legislation. Both the great political parties support it. Several measures have been introduced in Congress by republicans and democrats to cover the request of the attorney general, but congress has so far failed to pass any of them. It should be one of the first things attended to now that congress is in session again. It ought to be passed without debate and with practical unanimity.

There is the matter of taxes also that is a burning question with many people. The hasty tax legislation of the war period is still in force. It is bad in many respects. It retards business. Many sales of real estate and subsequent building operations have been prevented by taxes that confiscate a large part of the increase in real estate values in recent years. Capital is being withdrawn from some lines of business and the revenue diminished by the enormous rates of the income tax in its higher levels. Some of it is even being withdrawn from the country and invested abroad where the rate of income tax on large incomes is more moderate. Merely as a revenue measure designed to produce the most money the income tax needs revision in a radical way. The excess profits tax also should be revised in the interests of revenue production. If it is not so revised it will produce less money, we are sure. The luxury taxes are an annoyance but not so essentially unsound as the others we have mentioned. But far beyond every other objection to our present tax laws lies the fact that they are so complicated and complex that no lawyer will undertake to advise his client with any certainty regarding their meaning and effect. Something simpler should be devised. There was the excuse of haste for these tax laws when they were passed. A great war was on and the government needed vast sums of money any way they could get it. Now that the war is over and peace is here we should have something more scientific in the way of laws and something simple enough for the ordinary citizen to figure out what he owes the government under them.

The peace treaty will come up again in the senate we are told. Senator Reed says it is dead. But while it may be dead as far as he is concerned or the senate is concerned, it is certainly not dead as far as the rest of the world is concerned. It is being put into execution without our aid. We owe it our aid. We hope it will not come up in the senate again until there is some certainty of action, one way or the other. It has already served as an excuse for blocking all sorts of needed domestic legislation. We would rather see it postponed until after the next election and made an issue in that election than to have it debated endlessly as was the case in the special session with no result in the end. We are satisfied that the people of the United States by a large majority desire to see the treaty of peace and the league covenant ratified in such shape as to be acceptable to our allies in the late war and consistent with the attitude of our peace delegates. But if the republican opponents of this treaty wish to make a party question out of a non-partisan issue let it go at that and let the voters decide it next November.

Above everything else we would like to see congress pay some attention to the social and economic problems of the day and spend less time playing politics. That is a wish that we hardly expect to see realized, however, in the face of an approaching presidential election.

THE COST PLUS SYSTEM.

Considerable discussion of the cost plus system of letting contracts has been evoked recently on account of congressional investigations into the cost of work contracted for on this system by the administration during the war. Various administration officials have testified that it was advantageous to the government. We are decidedly of the opinion that this way of letting contracts is more costly than letting bids, though

we are aware that many large corporations have adopted in the past and perhaps will do so in the future. It has some advantages no doubt, but we do not think that cheapness is one of them. Perhaps the best defense that the government can offer for this method of letting contracts is that it made for haste in the carrying out of contracts. It saved time and time was more precious than money when these contracts were let. The political correspondent of the Tribune at Washington sends us a defense of the system that is interesting, though we are not prepared to defend every statement he makes, or quotes others as making. He says:

Efforts of the McKenzie sub-committee of the house committee on military affairs to show that the "cost plus" system of letting contracts for construction of army camps was a costly experiment now promise to end in failure. The committee has developed little support of that contention, and recent testimony before the house investigators was that a large number of business concerns throughout the country have adopted the policy since the war of letting contracts on the cost plus, rather than the lump sum, basis.

The McKenzie sub-committee is one of the several "smelling committees" named by the republicans of the house to investigate the conduct of the war and the administration of Secretary Baker. This particular sub-committee is charged specifically with an inquiry into construction costs at the various cantonments, and early in its hearings began to attack directly and indirectly, cost plus contracts.

When it became necessary at the outbreak of the war to hurriedly construct more than two dozen national army and national guard camps in the various sections of the country, the construction division of the quartermaster's department did not have sufficient organization to permit the government itself to build such a large number of cantonments. Consequently, since time was the important factor, the department called upon various contractors to put their already perfected organizations at the service of the government.

Contracts with such builders were made on a basis of cost, plus a fee for the services of the skilled organization of the contractors. The government paid for materials and carried on its own payrolls the organization of the contractor. The government also had army officers at each cantonment to see that the contractors complied with the specifications.

On completion of the cantonment, the contractor and various sub-contractors received a fee, which was a small percentage of the total cost of the camp. It was stipulated that the maximum fee in any case should not exceed \$250,000. As a rule, testimony before the house committee has shown that the army camps were constructed in a remarkably short period of time, and the cost plus system worked advantageously to the government and the virtual drafting of the contractor's organizations throughout the country saved both time and money.

One of the recent witnesses before the house Col. J. Norman Pease, who was constructing quartermaster at Camp Gordon. Colonel Pease was commissioned in the construction division because of his ability as an engineer and builder and was summoned to Washington to accept the commission early in the war. Since his discharge he has formed a connection with one of the greatest engineering concerns in the United States.

Members of the house committee asked Lt. Col Pease, who testified after his discharge and as a civilian, if he did not regard the cost plus system as a bad thing.

"I think the cost plus plan was of advantage to the government at Camp Gordon and elsewhere," said Mr. Pease. "Under the cost plus plan a contractor is not forced to make excessively high bids to take care of possible setbacks and contingencies. As an illustration, the terrain at Camp Gordon produced three different grades for the laying of sewers and so on, and surveys had to be made. A contractor bidding on a lump sum would have protected himself on this by bidding so high that he could not lose on account of this extra work. Under the cost plus plan, the government had the work done at the cheapest possible figure, and for a small fee, and did not have to pay for a private contractor's contingencies."

Mr. Pease testified also that many cost plus contracts are today being let by the big business concerns of the country, including certain cotton mills and power companies. He told the house committee that he did not think the war department could be criticised for making such contracts. On the other hand, he said a maximum fee limit, and the saving of time in constructing the camps enured to the benefit of the government and its soldiers. In order to expedite work, he said, a general contractor for a camp would frequently call in a half-dozen associates, large builders, who would be assigned to certain work in the camp, the whole machinery working expeditiously and honestly for economical and speedy construction.

The Opinions of Others

SEE! WHY BE SO PESSIMISTIC?
(Anaconda Standard.)

It is certain that eventually Mexico must fall to the United States, like a ripe plum to the ground.

BUT IS THERE SUCH A MAN?
(St. Paul Pioneer Press.)

The man who can limit debate in the United States senate will be next in popularity to the man who can take a fall out of the H. C. of I.

STATE'S METAL OUTPUT DECREASES \$55,000,000 FROM 1918 RECORD

Greatest Falling Off Is in Copper, Production of Which Was 150 Million Pounds Lower in 1919 Than in the Previous Year.

The value of the gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc mined in Montana in 1919, according to the estimate of C. N. Gerry, of the United States geological survey, department of the interior, was more than \$98,307,000, a decrease of about \$55,000,000 as compared with the value for 1918. All the metals but lead showed a decided decrease. On account of the low prices for copper, lead, and zinc, the mines at Butte, soon after the first of the year reduced their output to about 60 per cent of the normal. Production from the mines was not seriously affected by strikes, though there was some labor trouble in February.

The value of the gold output fell from \$3,104,704 in 1918 to about \$2,272,000 in 1919, a decrease of nearly 27 per cent. The main decrease was the output of gold derived from copper ores; there were slight decreases of gold derived from iron and siliceous ores and from dredging. The Barnes King Mining Co., operating in Fergus and Lewis and Clark counties, produced the most gold from siliceous ores; the Southern Cross mine in Deer Lodge county, produced much less gold.

Big Decrease in Silver. The mine output of silver decreased from 10,797,479 ounces in 1918 to about 13,281,000 ounces in 1919, and the value of the output decreased from \$16,707,479 to about \$14,789,000. In 1918 and 1919 Montana was the leading silver producer of the United States. In 1919 and in past years, most of this silver came from copper ores, the Anaconda Copper Mining Co., Butte & Superior, Elm Orlu, North Butte, Davis Daly, Butte Reduction Works, tailing dump, and the Granite-Bismetalle mines, at Phillipsburg. The output of copper decreased from 223,174,850 pounds in 1918 to about 180,246,000 pounds in 1919. This represents a decrease of 142,028,000 pounds in quantity and \$45,849,000 in value. The principal producers of the smelting plants of the Anaconda Copper company, at Great Falls and Anaconda, according to published statements, was nearly 13,000,000 pounds

of copper, as against 24,500,000 pounds in 1918. The Pittsmead plant of the East Butte company, produced more than 1,500,000 pounds a month, instead of 2,000,000 pounds, in 1918. In addition to the mines of the Anaconda and East Butte companies, the North Butte, Davis Daly, Butte Reduction Works, Butte, Butte Reduction Works, Butte, Butte & Superior, Tuolumne, Bullwhacker produced considerable copper.

The mine production of lead increased from 37,135,875 pounds in 1918 to about 42,163,000 pounds in 1919, but the value of the output decreased from \$2,436,647 to about \$2,411,737. A large part of the lead was obtained from the lead-zinc ores of the Butte district. The Snow Storm mine, at Troy, Lincoln county, and the Angelica mine, in Jefferson county, were also notable contributors. Byproducts from the electrolytic zinc plant at Great Falls have added greatly to the totals of both silver and lead. The lead smelter of the American Smelting & Refining company, at East Helena, was active on ores and concentrates, most of them shipped from Idaho and Montana.

Zinc Output Decreases. The output of recoverable zinc in Montana decreased from 209,258,148 pounds in 1918 to about 176,452,000 pounds in 1919. The value of the output decreased from \$19,042,491 to about \$12,915,000. The principal zinc producers of Montana were the Butte & Superior, Anaconda, Elm Orlu, and Butte Copper & Zinc mines. Smaller producers were the Snow Storm mine in Lincoln county; the Davis-Daly, at Butte; and the Montana Consolidated, in Jefferson county. Most of the zinc concentrate was smelted in the East, but zinc ore from the mines of the Anaconda Copper Mining company was concentrated at Anaconda and the concentrates were leached at Great Falls. The electrolytic plant was active during 1919, but the output was less than that of 1918, when much custom material was treated. The dividends paid by Montana companies for the first 11 months of 1919 amounted to about \$10,590,000. The principal dividend payers were the Anaconda Copper Mining company and the Barnes King Mining company.

Oil DOME BENEATH ROUNDUP IS BELIEF OF NOTED GEOLOGIST

Howard Slocum Expresses Opinion That Producing Wells Will Be Found.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Roundup, Jan. 5.—Howard Slocum, the geologist who located the Woman's Pocket oil field northwest of Roundup, says that in his opinion Roundup is located on an oil structure. It is believed that the structure is well defined and may some time prove to be very productive.

This will not benefit the residents of the city as the Milwaukee Townsite company in their deeds withheld the mineral rights from the purchasers. In several places indications have been found. A well drilled in the cemetery near the city showed traces of oil at a shallow depth, and in another locality gas makes a distant showing in a bunch of rock formation north of the city. It is believed that in all that the structure is well defined and may some time prove to be very productive.

Mr. Slocum, who secured the first lease in the Woman's Pocket four years ago as confident that producing wells would be found in that section. The Tri-City company is now completing a rig in that structure to test the sands, the former well having been abandoned from a flow of water which could not be controlled. He also states that in all that the structure is well defined and may some time prove to be very productive.

Cut Bank Masons and Stars Conduct Joint Installation.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Cut Bank, Jan. 5.—A public joint installation of officers of the Masonic lodge and the Eastern Star, was attended by many friends of the lodges. A three course dinner at 6:30 was followed by the installation which was conducted by the retiring Master, George Durand, for the Masons, and by Mrs. Martin Halvorson for the Stars.

Mr. Durand was presented with a past masters jewel and Mrs. Halvorson with a past matrons jewel. An impromptu dance followed the evening ceremonies. The following were installed: Masons—D. H. Bateman, worshipful master; Alva Bonds, senior warden; Frank Johnson, junior warden; H. P. Harrison, secretary; William Armstrong, treasurer; Walter Peoples, senior deacon; F. E. Vandemark, junior deacon; Andy Wilson, senior steward; J. V. Gallagher, junior steward; the Rev. V. P. Martin, chaplain; Harry Halvorson, marshal; Martin Halvorson, Tyler.

Stars—Mrs. C. C. Dewing, worthy matron; Mrs. W. P. Yonck, associate matron; Miss Lois Malby, conductress; Mrs. Nick Arnett, associate conductress; Mrs. W. J. Shannon, secretary; Mrs. A. E. Peterson, treasurer; Mrs. A. Holland, Aja; Mrs. J. Danens, Ruth; Mrs. George Durand, Eather; Mrs. W. F. Zion, Martha; Mrs. F. E. Vandemark, Electra; Mrs. Ida Worden, chaplain; Mrs. J. A. Plowman, marshal; Mrs. C. E. Kine, warden; Walter Peoples, Outside sentinel.

MARRIAGE AT BILLINGS.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Billings, Jan. 5.—The wedding of Miss Agnes Drum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Drum, both of Billings, were married yesterday here. The principals represent two of the oldest families of eastern Montana. Mr. Drum, having been one of the successful stockmen and farmers on the east coast.

LEOPOLD BECK GOES TO MILES CITY AS ELKS CLUB STEWARD

Lived in That Section When Roosevelt Ranched in Dakota; Noted Horseman.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Miles City, Jan. 5.—Leopold Beck, after an absence of more than 20 years, has returned to Miles City to accept a position with the Elks home as steward. Beck is well remembered as a participant in the many two-mile steeplechase races which were a feature in the horse racing events of two or more decades ago, contesting with such well-known old-time residents as Sydney Page, the Ryan brothers of the Madison, Mr. Kiewin and the Price and Gillett outfit. At that time he was the owner of "Chesapeake" a famous horse known all over the state.

The late Theodore Roosevelt was a great admirer of the steeple chaser when Mr. Beck lived on his ranch on the Little Missouri and the Roosevelt ranch on the Elkhorn was only 15 miles away and the friendship that sprang up between Mr. Beck and the former president lasted to Colonel Roosevelt's death.

At the outbreak of the war Mr. Beck left Lewistown and returned to the land of his birth, Belgium and was made a major in the Red Cross. After the armistice he conducted a hotel near Paris where many noted war figures visited. His family will arrive shortly from Great Falls.

Memorial Service for Brother Van Is Held at Wolf Point

Special to The Daily Tribune. Wolf Point, Jan. 5.—A service of more than usual interest was held on Sunday evening at the M. E. church, in memory of the Rev. W. W. Van Orsdel, D. D., superintendent of the Milk river district who passed away December 19, at the Deaconess hospital, at Great Falls.

Judge Gordon was unable to be present but sent in writing a fine tribute. He first met "Brother Van" in '88. H. A. Schoeninger spoke of "Brother Van" as a character builder and of the profound influence that his life and example had upon the world and lives today. The pastor also spoke briefly of his work as a minister and missionary and told of many instances of his interesting and eventful career. The songs used were those "Brother Van" loved so well, "Faith of Our Fathers," "The Church in the Wilderness" and "The Sweet Bye and Bye."

Shotgun Barriers Close Oil Well Road

Special to The Daily Tribune. Roundup, Jan. 5.—Owing to the fact that the road to the Devils Basin oil well crosses several pieces of private property much difficulty has been had in keeping the road open. Since placing mining claims have been filed on some of the property, the owners closed the road, in some cases warning off trespassers with a shotgun. The county commissioners have now leased a right of way across the land in question so that the road will be open permanently. The several oil companies operating in this field contributed to the funds used for that purpose.

TO LOCATE IN IDAHO.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Harlem, Jan. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gloyd have left for Couer d'Alene, Idaho, where they will make their future home. Mr. Gloyd is one of the pioneers of the country, having been one of the successful stockmen and farmers on the Big Flat.

STRENGTH AND SERVICE ESTABLISHED 1891

THIS BANK'S CREED— 1.—The protection of the funds deposited with it. 2.—The handling of all kinds of business promptly and courteously. 3.—The financing of legitimate enterprises. 4.—The discouragement of speculation. With these four points established, this institution hopes to prosper with the growth of this community.

Great Falls National Bank Strength and Service Established 1891 Corner 3rd St. and 1st Ave. No. Great Falls National Bank

OFFICERS OF HAVRE LOCATE BIG STILL IN RANCH DWELLING

Chief of Police Buys Moonshine From Peddler and Confiscates the Distillery.

Special to The Daily Tribune. Havre, Jan. 5.—The large cities of the east have nothing on Havre now when it comes to a question of making "booze" with a touch of wood alcohol in it as Chief of Police McKinnon and Mayor Tom McKenzie in a raid made at the ranch home of Raymond Schultz eight miles north of Havre, unearthed one of the most complete stills ever found. Here was found everything necessary for the making of a brand of so-called whisky that would make men climb trees and everything.

Chief McKinnon was first attracted to the making of the wet goods by reports that Schultz had three agents peddling the stuff in the city of Havre, and Saturday afternoon Mr. McKinnon purchased a bottle of the fluid paying the regulation price of \$5 a pint. A little later it was tipped off to the chief that Schultz was in Havre, so, taking Mayor McKenzie with him, the officer slipped out to the Schultz ranch.

In the basement of the Schultz home the officers found one of the most complete home-made stills ever discovered and they also found evidence of every nature pointing directly to the manufacture of intoxicating liquor. It was found that not alone wood alcohol was being used in the making of the stuff but brandy was used as well. Although very crude, the still was nevertheless complete and all the outfit were loaded into Chief McKinnon's car and brought to the Havre city jail where it will be held for evidence.

Lloyd Gertson, one of the alleged agents and the man from whom Mr. McKinnon got the booze, was arrested for bootlegging and it was through him that the local police were able to locate the spot from which the intoxicating goods were coming. Schultz was arrested but later both he and Gertson were released on a bail bond of \$2,000 each.

Mrs. Williamson died July 23.

Another Party of Whisky Bandits Landed in Prison

Special to The Daily Tribune. Missoula, Jan. 5.—Clayde Hilton, arrested several days ago at Spokane, has been taken to Deer Lodge to serve a sentence of from one to two years for assault. He pleaded guilty in the district court to the charge, which resulted from the attack on Fred Miles by half a dozen bandits here on the night of July 31. Three of the men now have been caught and are serving time as the result of this case.

Havre Daily Paper Is Taken in Hand by a Roundup Man

Special to The Daily Tribune. Havre, Jan. 5.—The Havre Daily Promoter has again changed hands. John M. Parsons who has had a lease on the plant having disposed of his lease to Dan R. Conway of Roundup who will conduct the paper in the future. It is the intention of the new owners to greatly add to the plant and issue an eight-page paper daily.

Took Out Dreadful Soreness

When the kidneys are weakened or overworked so that they fail to filter and throw all impurities out of the blood, the poison remains in the system and backache, soreness, lameness, and rheumatic pains are likely to develop. Mrs. David Henry, 65 S. Lincoln Ave., Washington, N. J., writes: "Foley's Kidney Pills are doing me much good, both my kidneys and the rheumatism. They took all the dreadful soreness out of my limbs."—Great Falls Drug Co.—Adv.

NYAL'S FACE CREAM Skin Beautifier Lapeyre Bros. Drug Store

MISSOULA POLICE PICK UP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF I.W.W.

Came From Spokane to Handle Lumber Workers' Union; Others Detained Temporarily.

Missoula, Jan. 5.—Frank Jarvis, executive secretary of the I. W. W. for this district, was arrested here Sunday by the police and more than 100 pounds of literature, dealing with the Centralia affair, books, badges and other I. W. W. matter, were taken with him. Jarvis came here from Spokane three weeks ago and has since been under surveillance.

Among the matter taken was a carbon copy of a letter he had sent which stated among other things: "The main office of the I. W. I. I. No. 500, Spokane district, will be in Missoula until further notice." The organization referred to is the Lumber Workers' Industrial union.

At the same time, two other alleged industrialists were taken, but they were later released under cash bonds of \$25 each. They gave the names of Henry Webster and Joe Kocot.

State Compensation Board Gets Claim From Far Bulgaria

Special to The Daily Tribune. Helena, Jan. 5.—The state accident board received a cable message from Bulgaria, today, saying that dependents of George Stoyanoff, alias George Stiff, had forwarded their claim for compensation to the board last September through the Bulgarian consul at Washington.

The Stoyanoff case followed his death when caught in a fall of ground in the Butte and Superior mine in January, 1916. His dependent relatives were cut off from sending in their claim because of the war, and after the armistice were again notified of their claim.

Want Runaway Boys in Chicago to Reply to Burglary Charge

Butte, Jan. 5.—Early tonight police in Butte received a dispatch from the chief of police, Melrose park, a suburb of Chicago, to hold George Brown, Michael Laskowski and Albert Beckoff until an officer can reach here to take them back to Chicago where they are said to be wanted on a burglary charge. These three boys with an average age of 16, when picked up by the Butte police said they have come west to hunt Indians. They were arrested on complaint of a local lodging house keeper who preferred charges of stealing.

Judith Gap Opposes Proposed Ubet County

Special to The Daily Tribune. Harlem, Jan. 5.—At a recent meeting of the Judith Gap Commercial club that organization adopted resolutions opposing the proposed creation of Ubet county, despite the fact that it was proposed to make Judith Gap the county seat.

American Bank & Trust Co. of Great Falls

DIRECTORS: R. P. Reckards, H. G. Lescher, W. K. Flowerree, William Griffin, Fred A. Woelner, Charles R. Taylor, Frank W. Mitchell, Albert J. Fousek, L. E. Foster, Alfred Malmberg, Robert Cameron, Charles Horning, Charles E. Heisay. OFFICERS: R. P. Reckards, President, W. K. Flowerree, Vice-President, H. G. Lescher, Cashier, F. O. Nelson, Assistant Cashier, Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

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