

The Bismarck Tribune

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The Unholy Triune and Their Dunces

Through their mouthpiece and general publicity agent, the Devils Lake Journal, the state tax commissioners are certainly making strenuous efforts to justify their existence and establish standing as useful members of the state administration of North Dakota. Now they come, through the columns of the paper mentioned, with a labored resume and alleged analysis of the work accomplished by the 1913 state board of equalization and cheerfully annex the credit that is due for the good work accomplished by the board, and endeavor to show by suppression of essential facts and dishonest juggling of figures that they, and they alone, are responsible for the successful results secured by a body in which neither the tax commission, nor any individual member thereof, had seat, voice or advisory expression.

A few specific examples will clinch the force of the above statement and let the people know in what manner an attempt is being made to hoodwink them and incidentally glorify three men whose main asset is subtlety, and whose every action indicates an utter inability to apply the first principle of common justice in carrying out the work with which they have been entrusted.

In the tables given by the tax commission, showing the increase in dollars and cents for each class of property, and the increased percentage of each, the statement is made that real property was equalized at an increase of \$6,058,054, or three per cent increase, ignoring the fact that there were nearly one million more acres assessed this year than in 1912, which practically accounts for the gain made.

The last legislature passed an act entitled, "Property Exempt From Taxation." In the list of exemptions will be found this clause: "Personal Property of each individual subject to taxation to the amount of fifty dollars." At the time the state board made the equalization of property these deductions were not made, but were left to be made subsequently by the county officials. When this is done the total of personal property will be no greater than in 1912. Therefore, the self-laudatory tax commission will not "feel justified in contending that this showing is largely due their efforts."

In keeping with its customary bombastic methods, in referring to this imaginary increase in personal property, the tax commission asserts that "this does not include the ten million dollars of escaped property which the commission will put on the tax rolls during the current year." In order to expose this futile attempt on the part of the commission to laud itself and impress upon the public mind what wonderful things it has accomplished it is only necessary to take two excerpts from the records of the state board of equalization. Mr. D. B. Zimmerman of Somerset, Iowa, the party referred to, had been assessed for 5,000 cattle, 25 horses and 2,200 sheep, to the amount of \$104,900. The record in the matter reads as follows:

"Mr. Zimmerman informed the board that he owned no property in North Dakota. All his ranches, land and cattle were in South Dakota, and there assessed. The assessment was placed against his property without investigation or proper information to enable the placing of any such assessment intelligently, and he had never been notified by any taxing body in North Dakota of such assessment. He asked that the assessment be canceled."

Mr. Stiles, of the firm of Carignan & Stiles, also appeared before the board and stated that his firm had been assessed for \$29,500. The record shows as follows:

"Mr. Stiles informed the board no one had ever interviewed him with reference to what property he owned on the reservation, nor of its value, and he had never been notified of the assessment. He stated the assessment was not correct and asked that it be reduced to an equitable amount and assessed on the same basis as other property in North Dakota."

The foregoing disclose some of the proceedings of the tax commission and the methods used in increasing the personal property assessment, and upon which it bases its declaration that it "feels justified in contending that this showing is largely due to their efforts."

Mayor Shrank of Indianapolis has resigned to avoid being impeached, and there is a disposition to refer to him now as Mayor Shrank.

Something to Forget

We have doubted the charge made by the Sioux Indians who are protesting against the making of an alleged Wounded Knee battle picture a historical record of the war department, that Gen. Miles and William Cody actually posed with the Indians and troopers for the making of the picture. Of course, there is no denying that figures greatly resembling those of the two men are to be seen in the picture as taken and made. We had, however, presumed until lately that other men, dressed in proper costume, had impersonated both the general and the famous scout.

Their long silence under the charge appears to give it a weight we had not given it. Neither the general nor the scout was at the Wounded Knee battle, a fact creditable to both. Why the scout

should seek to put himself there in a picture is easy to comprehend. But why the general should, if he really has consented to pose in such a way, is beyond all comprehension. If the "movie" managers have reached a point of popularity and enterprise at which army officers of the highest rank can be induced to figure in alleged battle scenes in which they did not figure in reality, the film is now mightier than the sword.

If Gen. Miles has done this thing, his purpose may have been to make a pictorial record for the war department which, it may be hoped, will set at rest the true story of what really happened at Wounded Knee as it was told in the newspapers at that time. This may be necessary at a time when we are all greatly horrified at things being done in Mexico. But we doubt whether the shadow, photographic, presence of Gen. Miles and Buffalo Bill in the slaughter pen at Wounded Knee can save that day from the place in history which it deserves. A better way would be to leave it without a place in history. Let it be forgotten.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

No amount of cold water from unfriendly sources can injure the Panama canal. The canal was built to hold and Uncle Sam can afford to sit tight.

Peaceful New Haven Adjustment

A practical agreement is reported between the attorney general and directors of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company, whereby the latter will be reorganized to meet the federal objections on the score of a violation of the anti-trust act. If this agreement is carried into effect it will obviate the necessity of a suit to force the relinquishment by the New Haven system of railroad and steamboat holdings that are in the judgment of the government, officials "in restraint of trade." It is evident from the fact that this agreement is thus amicably reached that the railroad's position is weak on the score of the alleged breaking of the Sherman act. It required a long litigation to bring about reorganization of the Harriman system to render it legal in the eyes of the government, and perhaps the result scored in that case has been instrumental in bringing about the present peaceful adjustment in the New Haven case. This is a reasonable acceptance of the inevitable and does credit to the good sense of the men in charge of this system. Opposition to the government's procedure would be costly to both sides, particularly to the railroad, and would be most doubtful of success. By an agreement to abide by the law as interpreted by the attorney general and his advisers the directors of the New Haven system set an example which might profitably be followed by all other corporations which have come under the scrutiny of the government with respect to the legality of their holdings and forms of management.—Washington Star.

Huerta has his shortcomings, but he seems to possess all the necessary qualifications to make a successful president—of the "Don't Worry" club.

Supporting the Government

The estimates are large, but so is the country. Uncle Sam runs a big establishment, and must consider his condition and his company. Or, changing the figures and dropping into the vernacular, it may be said that, as he is trotting in a fine and fast class, he needs the appropriate harness. Let him have it. Let the party in power vote whatever may be necessary for his comfort and prosperity. He is a high gentleman, of whom all of us are fond and proud.

Of course, there are last year's criticisms of the Republican figures, and last year's promises of economy and reform. Well, what of it? Suppose the Republicans do smile audibly. Let them. The thing to do is to get on ascertained facts, not on campaign fanes and extravagant deliverances.

Desires, one more smile on the part of the Republicans should not be disquieting. They are smiling about the tariff. The Underwood law has not wrought the wonders promised and vowed last year. The cost of living has gone up instead of down. It is plain now that the Payne law did not produce it. The cause is elsewhere, regardless of all that was charged in the campaign resulting in Mr. Wilson's election.

And then Mr. Aldrich did not say in so many words, as so often quoted, that three hundred million dollars a year were wasted in appropriations. He did not condemn his party for its liberal support of the government; so that the task of the Democracy on the issue of supplies is not the simple task of lopping off huge sums standing plainly recorded as unnecessary. The task is that of supporting the government according to ascertained needs, and forwarding, instead of halting, the national progress.

A young husband, kindly reminded that he was not living up to all of his pre-nuptial promises, squared himself by saying: "My dear, you were so pretty and irresistible, and I was so doubtful of my deserts and capacity to win you, I overpledged myself. But I'm going to do better, and as well as I can." That was sufficient.

Now let the Democrats ponder the illustration. They were anxious and devoted voters last year. The country was mighty fair to see, and they were doubtful of their capacity to win her. Accordingly, they played the limit in the matter of promises, and now find themselves greatly overpledged. They are not living, because they cannot live, up to the pre-nuptial engagements. All they can do is to confess their fault, and flatter the national pride.

Will it work? They can but try. It worked with the lady, and it may work with the public. At any rate, there is no other face to be put on things. An economy department of the government in matters of confessed importance would be suicide; and, harried as the Democrats now are, they have no thought of dying.—Washington Star.

Somebody suggests that congress should have been permitted to adjourn and go home, if only to learn what the people are thinking of its work. Possibly that is what the President desired to prevent.

The country lost last month \$4,500,000 in government revenues from the operations of the new tariff, and gained what?

Banking and currency discussion will not interfere with the customary loosening up of circulating medium for the holiday trade.

NORTHWESTLETS

Sheldon, N. D.—Fred Goodfellow, a farmer of the Englevale district near here, suffered a loss of \$5,000 in a fire, which destroyed all the buildings except his residence.

Minot, N. D.—Frank Oliver, colored, was arrested and charged with keeping and maintaining a place for gambling. He will probably receive a hearing in police court.

Tolley, N. D.—Creditors are searching for Joseph Baker, who left a note on the door that his place would be closed a few days because he was ill and since then no one has been successful in locating him.

Pembina, N. D.—The Academy of Mary Immaculate, Pembina, will be dedicated next Sunday, Bishop James O'Reilly of Fargo officiating. The academy was the court house of Pembina county until the removal of the county seat to Cavalier.

Genesee, N. D.—Nettie Riley must serve a 90-day jail sentence and pay a fine for violating the prohibition law, according to the decision of the supreme court. She was convicted and sentenced at a term of court in this county, and appealed. The original decision was affirmed.

Alexander, N. D.—Alexander is at last linked by steel rails to the outside world. The track-laying gang of the Great Northern finally reached this point and every person in Alexander and residents of the country for several miles were here to welcome the arrival.

Manning, N. D.—An effort was made to defeat the proposed bond issue for the agricultural high school by the circulation of rumors that the commissioners were pledged to locate it at Halliday. This angered the other towns. The commissioners are out with a signed statement in which they announce they have made no promises and are not bound in any manner.

Wolford, N. D.—Found lying dead along the road, Hans P. Hanson is supposed to have been the victim of a runaway accident. The wagon seat was found alongside his body and his neck was broken. It is thought he was pitched out of the rig while the horses were running away. There were no witnesses to the fatality.

Warwick, N. D.—The Utilities company of Devils Lake, which is owned by Dakota and Minnesota capitalists with F. E. Corson of Fargo as the active head, will establish a light, power and heating plant and a water-works system in Warwick. The arrangements have all been completed for the deal.

Upland, N. D.—The capital of the local creamery is to be increased as a result of the annual meeting held here. The plant is a profitable one and the stockholders want it enlarged. Half the proposed increase was raised at the stockholders' meeting and the rest will be given to prospective new stockholders and patrons.

Minot, N. D.—County court will convene on Tuesday, Jan. 7, with Judge William Murray presiding. One of the biggest batches of criminal and civil cases ever up before the court are to be settled at this term.

Grand Forks, N. D.—John Herriot, one of the pioneer residents of Elk-mountain township, this county, is dead, pneumonia being the cause. Mr. Herriot was born in Scotland, and was 61 years of age in October. He is survived by wife and two grown children, Mrs. P. H. Fontaine of near Dahlen, and John Herriot of Fairland, Williams county, this state.

Mandan, N. D.—Sixty-five carloads of grain have been received in Mandan for transfer to the east during the past few weeks from the Knife river extension west of Stanton. Grain has been shipped on the half completed line of the Northern Pacific since the rails passed Hazen.

Grand Forks, N. D.—The local typographical union has elected these officers: President, L. J. A. Fraschko; vice president, Fred Hummel; secretary-treasurer, A. J. Tagley; recording secretary, Victor Peterson; sergeant at arms, J. A. Neville; executive board, William Hollinger, James Curran and Thomas Collier; auditing committee, Otto Keller, George W. Jones and J. Torkelson; label committee, Cross, Nykol, Curran, Engle, Gilson, Collie and H. Brown.

Drayton, N. D.—A patent for a flexible drawbar for traction engines has been issued to H. H. Junkin and Charles Edwards, both of Drayton.

Walhalla, N. D.—Frank Lee, a local resident, was present at a ball Saturday night, just before he was declared a sufferer from smallpox. Though not feeling very well during the evening he remained at the dancing party until 2 a. m. Six hours later he was pronounced ill with smallpox.

Wimbledon, N. D.—Fire of unknown origin totally destroyed the large More Bros. hardware store Sunday morning. The fire was discovered at 3 and then had such a headway that it was impossible to check the flames or save anything of value.

The total loss is estimated at \$40,000, \$20,000 on the stock and \$20,000 on the building.

Lidgerwood, N. D.—W. S. Lowry received notice of his appointment as deputy internal revenue collector for this district of North Dakota. He will work under the supervision of the revenue office at Aberdeen, being one of the five special deputies for the state of North Dakota.

Devils Lake, N. D.—John Anderson, proprietor of a hotel at Churchs Ferry, today paid a fine of \$50 for running a gambling house.

Bathgate, N. D.—Edward Donnelly, of Bathgate, was arrested by Sheriff Foster, upon complaint of his wife, who alleges drunkenness and non-support. He was lodged in the county jail.

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Correspondence

BALDWIN.

This weather is the finest ever, and everybody but the mine owners are enjoying this warm weather.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Yiengst starts for Garrison tomorrow to visit with relatives till after the holidays.

As a matter of business, coal oil is sold at 50 cents per gallon at some places.

The church sale and musical given by the Ladies' Aid of Baldwin last Saturday evening was a great success, both financially and socially. About \$55 was realized from the sale of articles made by the aid. Vocal and instrumental music was rendered and after the sale a free lunch was served by the generous Baldwinites, which made a very successful evening.

It was amusing to note the forethought used by some of the single men at this sale, in buying things which might come handy in the future.

Friends of Miss Esther Johnson of Baldwin will be sorry to learn that she is in a hospital in Bismarck receiving treatment for an abscess in her throat.

Miss Mary Carlson has returned from Canada, where she has been visiting her sister, Mrs. O. Jacobson. She is not boosting Canada but thinks North Dakota, especially Baldwin, is the only place to live.

Miss Huldah Johnson closed her school in No. 2 in Crofte district a week ago.

Miss Pearl Summer, teacher of No. 11, will close her school Wednesday of next week.

Mr. C. J. Larson will have an auction sale tomorrow on his farm, a mile south of Baldwin. Mr. and Mrs. Larson will move to Baldwin and occupy their new residence, which Mr. Larson just purchased from Mr. C. Delzer.

Mr. Pete Lambert will keep bachelor's hall at the Yienst residence while Charley is gone. Hope Pete don't get that lonesome feeling "Scoop" is troubled with before the holidays.

Mr. Christ Dalzer and family has moved to Bismarck.

Everett Nixon, who was hurt on Thanksgiving Day, by this pony stumbling and falling on his leg, while he was out after the stock. He suffered a broken bone but managed

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to creep the half mile that remained. If he got in sight of the house where the family helped him and he was rushed to the hospital in Bismarck. We hope he will soon be out again. Herman Falkenstein of Wilton passed through here with two loads of oats to be marketed in Bismarck.

gold mining magnate of South Africa, who was a victim of a would-be assassin. He was shot twice by a storekeeper, revenging a recent lost suit against the Phillips mining group. A labor temple is to be built in Duluth.

MILLIONAIRE VICTIM IS FAST RECOVERING

Johannesburg, South Africa, Dec. 11.—Physicians are hopeful of the recovery of Sir Lionel Phillips, leading

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