

The Butte Daily Post.

Published every evening except Sunday by the Butte Daily Post company, 26 West Granite street, Butte, Montana.

Entered as second-class matter Jan. 29, 1913, at the post-office at Butte, Montana, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates Daily, one month.....\$ 5.00 Daily, one year, in advance \$50 Semi-weekly, 12 months.. 2.00

Branch Offices Anaconda.....203 Main Street Dillon.....13 So. Idaho Street Deer Lodge...Deer Lodge Hotel J. P. McKinney, Special Agency 506 Eastern Advt. Agent, 334 Fifth Avenue.....New York 122 S. Michigan Av., Chicago

Telephones Business Office.....428 Editorial Rooms.....1015

Anaconda Business Office.....65

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Official Paper of the City of Butte The Post is a Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1917.

LETTING OTHERS DO IT

If the O'Shea bill providing for state insurance of public buildings remains killed, the people of Montana can thank the house for a good job. The measure passed the senate, the Post believes, because the members did not realize that its provisions were impracticable. State insurance has failed wherever tried. Its record in Montana wouldn't be any better than in other states where admittedly it has been unsatisfactory.

In the past it has frequently happened that a notoriously bad or inadequate bill has been permitted to pass one house in the belief and expectation that the other would kill the measure in due course. That is risky business. The better way is to dispose of a faulty bill in the house in which it originates, but it may be that cannot be done invariably. For personal reasons members often hesitate to apply the ax to the pet measure of an associate when they wouldn't hesitate to kill the same bill from the other house.

Thus it has happened during the present session that the senate has killed several house bills that never should have been permitted to get that far along; on the other hand, the house has performed a similar service for the senate. The O'Shea bill is an instance where the house killed a senate measure that was not worth a file.

WHERE WE SHINE

This is the season at which all sorts of statistics for the former year become available. Those that relate to murder have arrived. They tell the old story—they confirm the title of the United States to championship in capital crime. We do a good deal of talking about the brutality manifested in Europe's war; the fact is that for each one hundred thousand in population we have eight murders while London has only one. The rate in that total is four in New York, five in Boston, twenty-three in New Orleans. The Post doesn't know at the moment Butte's exact figure; it is so high for last year that the publishing of it wouldn't do this town or county any good. Any foreigner on either side in Europe's conflict has license to make scornful reference to our protestations against slaughter in war by citing our ugly statistics that tell the story of murders in the United States; at home we fail to show respect for the sanctity of human life. Last year's record was only a slight variation from that of 1915. For the past ten years the annual murder average is a little higher than it was the preceding decade.

A SOUTHERN STATE

Not long ago word came that the lower branch of the legislature of Tennessee had voted in favor of limited suffrage for women. That meant that the women of the state could vote for president and for candidates for national offices but not for state tickets. The announcement was a mild surprise, because it was nowhere understood that Tennessee was disposed to extend the suffrage for reasons that have weight in many southern states. More recent news is that the senate at Nashville brushed the project away

FACTS ABOUT THE TAX REPORT

Essential parts of the report of the senate's special committee deal with statistics which are alleged to show the relative number of persons in Montana who are "dependent" upon its several classes of industries. In the first place, these figures are valueless because they are not an approach to accuracy. In the second place, were the computation accurate it would be worthless as furnishing an economic basis for any equitable scheme in the assessment of taxes.

The committee says that it finds that the state's population, assumed to be about 700,000, includes 115,000 persons who are dependent upon mining, 105,000 persons upon railroading and 400,000 upon farming. It depends upon the meaning of the word "dependent." Mining is carried on in many counties of Montana—at least in twenty of them. In two or three of them more than 120,000 people are "dependent" on mining, with tens of thousands in other counties whose dependence in essential respects is on the mining industry.

Test it. Close the mines within Silver Bow county and the works at Anaconda and the plant at Great Falls. Figure the number of people who in lumber and coal camps would be found to be "dependent;" account for the reduction in railroad tonnage and the number of men that would be reached; or for the cutting off of the demand for operating power; or take a census of the farmers in a dozen counties where land value is in good percentage "dependent" on the markets which the mining centers furnish.

In order to make its figures show 400,000 farmers, the committee must include in that classification at least 100,000 people living in cities and incorporated towns in this state, outside of Butte and Anaconda. Are they farmers—the residents of Missoula and Dillon and Deer Lodge and Billings and Great Falls and Three Forks and Livingston and Helena and Red Lodge and Roundup? Or are they "dependent" on farming, as against mining or railroading or manufacture or mercantile pursuits?

The aim of the committee in these wrong figures is to give point to their unwarrantable conclusion that "while the average gross production for each person dependent upon the mining industry is approximately \$1,300 a year, it is \$200 for each person dependent upon farming." The classification made by the committee, as to "dependents," is preposterous and, therefore, the deduction as to ratio of per

by a two-to-one vote. The inference is that the house was not so very serious but that, under impetuosity for action, it simply put the case up to the state senate. If the members of the legislature in Tennessee or in any other state are sincerely in favor of woman suffrage, their proper course is to send the question to the polls, there to be passed upon by the qualified voters, under the process of an amendment to the state constitution.

That is the right way. Recently in some of the largest and oldest of the states the measure was voted down, but it can be submitted again. It will be in New York and probably in Ohio at the next general election. North Dakota's former legislature has voted limited suffrage, after the general plan that was proposed in Tennessee. The states are few in which the suffragists would stand for this half loaf.

OUR NEIGHBORS

The farmers are the whole works in North Dakota. So many of them joined the nonpartisan political league and supported it at the polls that their organization has all the state officers, the legislature and the supreme court. The avowed purpose is to bring into existence state-owned elevators, packing houses, warehouses and flour mills. Besides, the Dakota farmers propose to make a good many things, including taxation, come their way, and they intend to spread their influence and their operations to other states; their ambition is to pass the federal government over to the control of the farmers. That end has been sought repeatedly by farmer organizations, but the old parties survive, having in each case adopted some part of the farmer program. Years ago the grange became politically powerful. It aimed to bring about public control of railroads and transportation facilities. In important respects the agitation succeeded, through the agency of the old political parties. The farmers' alliance figured in political affairs. Its influence was felt. Congress established a national warehouse system and standardized grain and regulated many transactions in produce.

OUR NEIGHBORS

As populists the farmers pushed for

capita gross production is worthless. But even if the basis itself were accurate, the figures would be of no value whatever, because they present conditions, per capita, that are not and certainly cannot be the foundation for any intelligent method or system in taxation, and they may therefore, be dismissed. It would be as sensible to base the merchant's tax on the number of his clerks or graduate a poll tax on the size of a man's family. It is, by the way, distinctly to this state's discredit that there should be publicity for assertions which place Montana farming at an alleged disadvantage so great as the report attempts to advertise.

In turn, the Post's belief is that the members of the legislature will not hasten to conclusions on the strength of paragraphs in the report which deal with gross earnings for several of the state's varied industries. That phase of the case gets pertinent attention in the Post's Helena correspondence of today. On this score we venture the assertion that the committee has had nothing that is much better than a guess to go by, in figuring, for instance, gross proceeds for the farming industry last year.

The statistics are simply not available and they cannot be. There are groups of federal statistics; recently this page has shown the glaring discrepancy between these and the state's official figures. For instance, Helena reports that there were in Montana last year 2,740,814 sheep of average value of \$2.99 per head; the federal government's department of agriculture says that, January 1, 1916, there were in Montana 3,941,000 sheep, worth \$2.10 apiece! And so it runs through most of the items. If the gross proceeds of farming last year were \$81,154,000, as claimed by the committee, then Montana is filled with lies about the state's yield, last year, of wheat and oats and barley and hay and other crops.

Then, too, the committee undertakes to compare gross production for farms and for mining, for 1916, yet the known fact is, as mentioned in the correspondence to which we have referred, that the official figures for mining close in June, as the fiscal year, and that thereafter the compared annual periods are at least six months apart. One difference is this: The price of copper for the second six months of 1916 was much larger than for the year ending in June of last year, so that the taxes realized by the state from the net proceeds of mines will in fact

be much larger this year than for last year, the basis being higher—indeed, the difference will be very great. That important item is not brought out in the committee's report. It is clear, again in this instance, that the matter of gross production is in fact not—at least it should not be—the decisive factor with the legislature. The figures, we assert, are wrong in essential respects and, besides, they are by no means final in getting at a basis for equitable taxation—indeed, they are hardly incidental. But even if they are deemed by the legislature to be pertinent, the Post still believes that the members at Helena will be disposed to mark this radical, vital difference: The gross product removed from the mines will never be replaced in those mines—the properties are depleted by just so much as is the value of the ore that has been removed, and the mineral, at the time of its removing, pays a tax on its full net value. But the farm remains, to be at least as valuable as ever in producing gross products. The value of the mine constantly decreases; much of the money made by prosperous farmers in Montana is, on the contrary, the result of constantly increasing value for the farms.

LUKE M'LUKE SAYS

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She may become your partner when you marry her. But don't ever get the idea that she will be a silent partner. A man in love may want to see his fiancée the worst possible way, but he never thinks of calling on her in the morning just after she has had breakfast.

The big trouble about the high price of eggs is that it may tempt some of the old-time, fly-by-night tragedians to go out on the road again. The municipality has power to fix the weight of the loaf of bread the Baker bakes for you. But what it needs is the right to fix the weight of

CURRENT ATTRACTIONS AT BUTTE THEATERS

- BROADWAY Today—Pantages vaudeville. EMPRESS Hippodrome vaudeville—Today, the Crinoline Girls and five other acts. ANSONIA Vaudeville and moving pictures—Today, Robert Warwick in "The Man Who Forgot." AMERICAN Moving pictures—Today, Bessie Love in "Nina, the Flower Girl." ORPHEUM Moving pictures—Today Bryant Washburn and Nell Craig in "The Breakers." LIBERTY Moving pictures—Today, "The Piper's Price."

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Meanwhile, there is a glaring difference between the committee's estimate and the state auditor's report as to the income the state needs for the two-year period. We do not undertake to reconcile this difference. The committee says that it will cost about \$2,300,000 a year to run the state—that is a big increase. The average taxpayer will, at least, not be of the opinion that there should be in one sweep a cleanup of warrants or a cash appropriation of all the money required for permanent investments for any class of the state's public institutions—that is a charge toward which the future should contribute.

Except incidentally, if at all, the revenues from the liquor traffic will not fall off this year or next. A known fact is that for this year the state's income from net returns from mines will be very much larger than for last year. The recent discussion has brought this fact to the notice of the people of Montana: "The mining industry is the candid advocate of a progressive administration of state affairs. It has declared itself ready and willing to contribute its full share toward legitimate costs. But it asks that it be not made the victim in taxation of crude methods that are based on distorted facts or misleading figures."

the loaf of bread your wife bakes for you. A woman never brags about her relatives who live in the same town with her. She saves her bragging for her relatives who live on the other side of the country because she knows that you will never meet them and won't know the difference.

Ever notice that the man who can quit when he wants to never wants to? Most of the knoekers who are trying to down their home towns go around disguised as reformers. Sufficient time having elapsed to enable every man in the trenches in Europe to receive his Christmas cards bearing the inscription: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men," the work of slaughtering the other fellows will go right ahead.

Our Daily Special.

Drinking To Drown Your Sorrow Is Feeding A Fire With Alcohol. Names Is Names. C. Backrow lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Free Free LANDER Monday Extra high-grade Set or 100-piece Dinner Sets of finest quality glazed porcelain, with pure gold border FOR PARTICULARS SEE Tomorrow's Miner and Standard ALSO Monday's Post

ODD EVENTS IN TODAY'S NEWS

EGGS FOR BAIL BONDS.

Hutchinson, Kan.—When J. J. Pankrat, a farmer, arrested on a charge of reckless driving, learned the amount of his bond he was unable to put up the cash, and could think of no one on whom to call. He said he had with him no personal property of value, but offered to put up a case of eggs for his appearance in police court. The bond was accepted.

QUAIL GET DRUNK.

Annapolis, Ala.—S. P. Mable, who has just returned from a trip to Georgia, tells a remarkable story. He says he was in the country near Bowdoin when he learned that revenue officers had destroyed an illicit distillery a few days before. Arriving at the point, he found a number of quail feeding on the sour mash the revenue men had thrown out. Every one of the birds was drunk, according to Mr. Mable, and they were unable to get away. He picked up 13 of them and says he will keep them until they sober up.

DOG AND CHICKENS ON TRIP

Montgomery City, Mo.—Dave Foreman, his dog and chickens are back home. Foreman, dog and chickens stowed the 400 mile trip well from Pratt county, Kan., where they were visiting with Foreman's mother. In making the trip Foreman rode in a chair car, but the pet bulldog and chickens enjoyed the freedom of a big crate in the express car.

A month ago the trip to Kansas was decided on. But there were the prize chickens and the pet dog. Foreman, unmarried, spent the most of his spare time caring for them, and he would not trust them to the neighbors. So when he went visiting the dog and chickens went along. "It was a nice outing for them," he said when he returned. "They enjoyed mother's cooking almost as much as I."

PROTESTANT CHURCHES

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Woman's Club building, corner Park street and Clark avenue—Services at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m.; subject, "Spirit." Sunday school at 12:15 p. m. Wednesday evening testimonial meeting at 8 o'clock. Reading rooms open daily, except Sundays and holidays, from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Rooms 86 and 87, fourth floor of the Owsley block. Telephone 843. All are welcome.

Central Presbyterian church, corner Utah and First, Rev. G. W. Thomas pastor—Morning sermon at 11 o'clock; subject, "Allegiance to the Great Scout Master." This is national Boy Scout Sunday. Troop No. 1 of Butte will attend in a body in uniform, accompanied by the Wolf Cubs, Camp Fire Girls and Blue Birds. There will be a special music by the scout orchestra and a solo by the sister of one of the scouts. The sermon will be specially prepared for the occasion. Parents and friends are especially invited. Evening service at 7:30 o'clock; subject, "The Friends and Death of Paul," closing sermon of the series on the great apostle.

Gold Hill Norwegian church, Rev. Frederick A. T. Corneliusen pastor—Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. by the pastor. In the morning liturgical service and in the evening song service and music by the guitar band. The Ladies' Aid society will meet Wednesday evening at the hall at 8 o'clock. All Scandinavian people are heartily welcomed. The entertainer is Mr. Olaf Haug. Do not forget this meeting. I am sure you will be surprised at what young men can do.

Mountain View Methodist Episcopal church, Montana and Quartz streets, the Rev. George B. Wolfe minister—Class meeting at 9:45 a. m. Preaching service at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 12:30 p. m. Epworth league at 6:30 p. m. Evening service at 7:30 o'clock. This will be a Lincoln's birthday service.

Grace Methodist Episcopal church, Second and Arden streets, J. H. Mitchell pastor, residence 715 East Second—Preaching by the pastor at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Morning subject, "Every Man a Debtor." Evening subject, "The Sin of Evil Thinking." Sunday school at 12:30 p. m. Epworth league at 6:30 p. m. Special music at the evening service. A cordial welcome to all.

Methodist Episcopal church, Silver Bow park—Sunday school at 2:30 p. m. Services at 7:30 p. m. in charge of A. Andrews. J. B. Penhall, assistant pastor.

Unity Methodist Episcopal church, Meadville, W. H. Pascoe pastor—Preaching and Sunday school at 11 a. m. Preaching at 7:30 p. m. by W. J. Vigus. Epworth league at 6:30 p. m.; Aubrey Edwards, leader. Prayer service Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. Junior league Tuesday; Geoffrey Woodhouse, leader.

Lowell Avenue Methodist church, Lowell avenue and George street; C. A. Rexroad pastor, 1715 Lowell avenue, phone 3116W—Preaching Sunday morning and evening by the pastor. Morning theme, "Assets and Liabilities Religiously Considered." Solo by Mrs. W. J. Gray. Evening theme, "Who is God?" Miss Sarshay and George Tippet. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Morning worship at 11 o'clock. Junior league at 3 p. m. Epworth league at 6:30 p. m. Evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Welcome.

St. Paul's church, Galena and Idaho streets, R. H. Bolos, long pastor, 103 South Idaho street—Morning service, "Let Your Light Shine." Evening subject, "God's Love." Sunday school at 12:15 p. m. Epworth league at 6:30 p. m. Shaffer African Methodist Episcopal church, Idaho and Platinum streets, R.

ASH AND GARBAGE CANS

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Corner Main and Quartz Streets

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S. SAIER 660 Phoenix Blk., Butte



S. Brown pastor—Bible class and Sunday school at 10 a. m. The evening meeting will be a Lincoln service. Short papers by Miss Cora Jackson and J. A. Higgins and patriotic songs. The pastor will speak on "Obedience to God—the Patriot's Ideal."

Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal church, 101 West Copper street, Andrew Odgaard pastor—Regular services Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. The Rev. C. J. Larsen, D. S., will preach. Baptism of children after the morning service. All Scandinavians are cordially invited.

Trinity Methodist church, 871 North Main street, John G. Ross pastor—Morning worship at 11 o'clock. The Rev. R. C. Edgington of Helena will preach. Sunday school at 2:30 p. m. Epworth league devotional meeting at 6:30 p. m. Evening worship at 7:30 o'clock. The Rev. Mr. Edgington preaching.

Mount Bethel Methodist Episcopal church, 1609 North Main street, G. J. Stephens pastor—Morning service at 11 o'clock; sermon by T. R. Austin. Class meeting at 12 o'clock noon. Sunday school at 12:30 p. m. Epworth league at 6:30 p. m. Evening service at 7:30 o'clock; sermon by pastor.

Wesley chapel, 1000 Tabbot avenue, G. J. Stephens, pastor—Morning service, 11 o'clock; sermon by pastor. Sunday school at 2:30 p. m. Evening service, 7:30, sermon by G. R. McDonald.

St. John's Episcopal church, Idaho street and Broadway; the Rev. C. J. Chapman, rector—Celebration of the holy communion, 8 a. m. Morning prayer and sermon, 11. Sunday school, 12:30. Evening prayer and sermon, 7:30.

Emanuel Lutheran church, Montana and Silver streets; D. N. Anderson, pastor—Regular services on Sunday at 10:45 a. m. and 8 p. m.; Swedish in the morning and English in the evening. The choir will sing. Sunday school at 12:15 p. m.

St. Andrew's chapel, Centerville; the Rev. E. J. Jensen in charge—Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Evening prayer and sermon, 7:30.

First Baptist church, Broadway and Montana streets; Charles A. Cook, pastor—Sunday school at 11 a. m. "Events Preceding the Second Coming of Christ." 7:30 p. m. "Undervaluing Life's Possibilities." Bible school at 12:30. Baraca Young people's night by the pastor. Baptist Young People's union at 6:30 p. m.; topic, "Christian Confession."

Swedish Baptist church, 750 East Park street; R. J. Stenmans, pastor; residence as above; phone 5248-J—Sunday school at 10:30 a. m., with classes for all; lesson, "Jesus and the Woman of Samaria." Preaching by the pastor at 11:30 a. m. Evening service at 7:30 o'clock. All Scandinavians cordially welcome.

Bethel Baptist church, Idaho and Mercury streets; Emmet B. Reed, minister—Sermon, "God's Temple," at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 12:15 p. m. Praise meeting at 3 p. m. Sermon, "The Efficacious Love," at 8 p. m. The public is cordially invited.

First Presbyterian church, E. J. Groeneveld, pastor—Morning service, 11 o'clock. Sunday school, 12:30 p. m. Young people's night by the pastor. Baptist service, 7:30 o'clock. The evening service will be a patriotic one, with special music, and an address on the life and character of Abraham Lincoln.

Immanuel Presbyterian church, Galena and Gaylord streets—Sunday school at

RIPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason.

OUT OF DATE

Today I have a motor car as fine as any wagons are. It has all kinds of modern traps, invented by long-headed chaps. I'm all swelled up with pomp and pride, when I scoot o'er the countryside, and get the everlasting goats of those who own back number boats. And when in town I stop my car, to buy my face a good cigar, the people crowd around and say, "Gee, but that car is resherashy!" Tomorrow when I drive around the courthouse and the village pound, I'll be too grouchy to relate; my auto will be out of date. And I will hear cheap skates remark, "It came across in Noah's ark!" Ah, melancholy is the fate of one who'd be right up to date, and have the latest thing in cars. His spirit soon is seamed with scars. Those brisk inventors should be canned, who spring new schemes to beat the band, who make the triumph of today look cheaper than the one hooss hay! 'Twould break a John D. Astorbilt, and send him poorhouseward full tilt, to own a modern car sublime, for more than two weeks at a time