

# THE CALDWELL TRIBUNE

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## HIGH COST OF MISFORTUNE.

It is unfortunate for a man when he cannot pay his taxes. It is now more unfortunate than it has ever been in the State of Idaho. The legislature, in its wisdom, in 1913 passed a new revenue law which piles up interest on penalties and costs on both at an alarming rate.

The law provides that a ten per cent penalty shall accrue on the second Monday in January if half the taxes are not paid. On the taxes and penalty the rate of interest is 18 per cent per annum. At the expiration of two years suit is brought to foreclose and a new line of costs accrue. All told, it is estimated that by the time the suit is brought to a successful conclusion the tax, penalty and costs will at least equal the value of the property. It works out about thus:

Second Monday in January taxes are due	\$20.00
10% penalty	2.00
Interest on both 2 years at 18%	7.92
<b>Total due when suit is started</b>	<b>\$29.92</b>
Clerk's fee for filing suit	10.00
Sheriff's fees for serving paper	5.00
Abstract of property	5.00
Attorney's fee	25.00
Sheriff's fees and costs for sale	35.00

**Total . . . \$109.92**

It will be noted that in every instance we have placed the fees at the minimum. For instance, if the sheriff cannot get personal service the costs will be above \$500. An abstract rarely costs as little as \$500. But even on this basis the costs have increased over fivefold in two years time.

The present revenue law makes delinquency in taxes a terror to the property owner. Perhaps that is its purpose.

## VIEWS OF PUBLIC MEN.

When President Wilson was elected the affairs of Mexico were of so little importance in his judgment that he failed to take advantage of the opportunity offered him by President Taft to become familiar with them. He had no views on the Mexican situation. The great war in Europe was undreamed of and of course President Wilson had no views on that. Yet today we find that his administration will stand or fall upon the policies he has adopted as the results of these two wars.

President Wilson completely reversed his policy in regard to free Panama canal tolls. He has reversed himself on the second term plank of the Baltimore platform. He has reversed himself on the proposition of establishing a tariff commission and changed his mind on the tariff itself. What difference does it make what President Wilson's views were on these subjects two or three years ago? He has rightly reserved to himself the privilege of changing his mind as new conditions arise or as new facts come to his attention. The views a man may hold at any particular time are of no great importance except as indicating his general character. Each issue must be met as it arises.

At this particular moment a number of people are warmly wrought up over the views Mr. Chas. E. Hughes may entertain on different issues. They seem to fear that Mr. Hughes may have unwise and unpatriotic views on public questions. As a matter of fact these very persons know or can easily ascertain the views of Mr. Hughes on any fundamental principle. He need not issue bulletins from day to day that the people may know his views. His mind is not so agile as that of President Wilson. He usually arrives at conclusions after considerable study of the premises and those views do not need to be revised every time there is a change of the moon.

The views of Mr. Justice Hughes on fundamentals are fixed. They are also well known. His views on incidents are unimportant and subject to change, perhaps, like the views of every other man.

## BONUS FOR GOOD CARETAKERS.

One of the disadvantages, from the viewpoint of the landlord, of renting property is the indifference of the renters to the care of the property. This necessarily forces the landlord to charge a higher rental than would otherwise be the case. The good, careful renter has to pay for the damage done by the careless, indifferent renter. This is not right but it cannot be helped.

The Philadelphia Model Homes Company has decided to try an experiment. This company will pay a bonus for good attention to the welfare of the property. At the expiration of a year the company will investigate the property. If good care has been exercised a half month's rent will be given the tenant. If extraordinary good care has been taken the bonus will equal a month's rent. This immediate return to the tenant is calculated to make him more careful of the property. The world moves very slow. It does move, as is evidenced by an idea that gains adoption every once in a while. The time may come when the wages of sin will be borne only by the sinner.

## SINCERE LOT OF PATRIOTS.

You can expect most anything from Republicans, so the Democrats have been telling us for years. The Republicans are naturally contemptuous of the rights of the people. With the Democrats it is different. Every Democrat is born with a deep and abiding respect for the common people and their rights.

The facts stated above are proven by the recent actions of the Democratic county committees of Canyon and Ada counties. The actions were very similar and had in view the same purpose, viz: the retention in authority of the Pence-Elder-Nugent machine. Luckily for us, Republicans, the Democrats themselves understand the motives of the machine. They also furnish the charges against it and the denunciation. All the Republicans have to do is to quote Democrats.

The leaders of the Democratic party in Idaho are a sincere lot of patriots. Their methods are summed up in the sentence: We will steal the Pocatello convention in order to keep the Days from buying it. Let the people rule.

## CITY RECEIVES LEGACY.

Everett H. Barney, when he died, left nearly all his estate of about \$600,000 to the city of Springfield, Mass. The annual income amounting to between thirty and forty thousand dollars, is to be applied to the civic center of the city, in the purchase of adjacent lands and the exten-

sion of the municipal group of buildings.

Such disposal of an estate is rare. It would seem to be an ideal way in which to show appreciation; perpetuate the name; and accomplish the common good. The city unquestionably made the accumulation of the fortune possible. After its use through life nothing is more fitting than that it be returned to the municipality.

The ultimate disposition of great estates is becoming a serious problem and may become a great menace. Foundations in perpetuity are not ideal ways in which to handle the great accumulations of wealth. These foundations may become a serious menace to the people, unless rigidly safeguarded and circumscribed by laws. The placing of immense wealth by inheritance in the hands of individuals has the redeeming feature that usually in a couple of generations this wealth is dissipated.

The city always has use for money and can spend or conserve it without danger or injury to the general public. There is little likelihood that any one city will thus become inflated with easily gained wealth.

## PUBLICITY BY RECLAMATION SERVICE.

It has been suggested to The Tribune by a man in whose judgment we have the greatest confidence that something might be accomplished in settlement of controversies growing out of the Reclamation Service work in this section, if the Reclamation Service would work more openly. The idea is that if the Service would tell the farmers exactly what they have done and why; what they hope to do and how; and also lay before them the position of the Service on all matters; that many differences and troubles would immediately adjust themselves. In short there should be full and complete publicity.

The Tribune thinks there is great merit in the idea. Publicity and straightforward dealing are the things that are needed. Let the Reclamation Service place its cards upon the table.

It is a hard matter to straighten out a tortuous course. From the very beginning the Reclamation Service has followed the line of least resistance and today finds itself in an utterly untenable position. It cannot act with justice to both the government which employs it and the settlers for whom it is employed. Its life depends upon getting out from under on the Boise project. The life of the settlers depends upon holding the Service to strict accountability. This antagonism exists and The Tribune cannot see how it can be overcome. Either the government of the United States or the settlers on the Boise project must sustain a loss of three or four million dollars. We are firmly convinced that the government should stand the loss. The settlers are of the same conviction. The Reclamation Service is convinced that anything is better than to have the usefulness of the Service impaired. There you have it.

The Tribune suggests that the Reclamation Service undertake a little self reformation. It might change its tactics without harm. For instance it might substitute argument for bribes and reason for threats.

## COME IN, YOU'RE OUT.

The Wilson administration for the second time is withdrawing from Mexico sans accomplishment. We invaded Mexico at Vera Cruz for the purpose of getting the flag saluted. We didn't get the salute. We again invaded Mexico for the purpose of getting Villa, on account of the Columbus incident. We have abandoned all hope of getting the Mexican bandit. The punitive expedition is a dismal failure.

The Mexican problem will be with us forever at the rate we are going. We have made no progress whatever. We can make no progress unless we change both our methods and our purposes. We must either absolutely quit interfering in Mexico or else interfere in earnest. The present half measures are simply earning for us the hatred and contempt of the people of Mexico. They cannot respect a nation which is weak, cowardly and meddlesome.

The Tribune firmly believes that this country must, sooner or later, undertake to pacify Mexico. We can see no object in postponing the evil day. If we were taking advantage of delay in order to make preparation for the task there would be some sense in delay. We are making no preparations. We are simply nursing a vain hope that "something will turn up" in Mexico that will relieve us of our obligation. Nothing is going to turn up, because nothing can turn up. Anything that turns up will be turned up by this country. It is about time that we were looking the facts squarely in the face.

## BUCHANAN AND WILSON.

It has been noted that James Buchanan, the last Democratic president but one, invented watchful waiting as his policy; that he wobbled into war; and that he, above all the presidents the country has had, is most like unto the present occupant of the White House. Indeed observers of the present administration find in the actions of President Buchanan precedents for every policy of President Wilson. The methods, temperament and character of the two men are very much alike.

History has registered its judgment on James Buchanan. He too was faced with a grave crisis—the most grave in the history of the country—and he was unable to meet the crisis. The people of the country have rendered their verdict on President Buchanan.

Next November the people will pass judgment on Woodrow Wilson. We are confident that they will find the same verdict as they did 56 years ago in the case of James Buchanan. They will declare that he has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

## DESTROYED WITH GREAT CEREMONY.

With appropriate ceremony and in the presence of the district judge, other county officials, and the attaches of the court house, 15 gallons of whisky were destroyed at the court house Saturday. The reporters of the daily press were present. Taken all in all the occasion was something of a function. The sheriff of the county feels that he is entitled to more or less praise for the manner in which he staged and carried through the ceremony. Perhaps he is. In this instance the booze was actually destroyed but whether this was due to the adamant refusal of the sheriff or the presence of the district judge or both we are unable to say. Neither can we tell whether in the future destruction of contraband booze will take place in the open of the lawn or in the privacy of the basement. There are some things that are not given The Tribune to tell.

We will not mar a happy occasion by carping criticism of the manner in which the function was handled by the sheriff. We felicitate him upon the successful consummation of the undertaking. We believe that we appreciate the hidden dangers which lurked about and at times threatened to defeat the purpose of the sheriff. Under the circumstances it is something to successfully destroy 15 gallons of good red liquor. If the sheriff wished to make it a celebration The Tribune would be the last on earth to interfere.

It was thoughtful of the sheriff to have present the district judge, representatives of the press and other witnesses. In case any question should arise the sheriff, in this instance, can prove absolutely that two kegs of liquor,

containing 15 gallons, more or less, were destroyed. There are people who are naturally suspicious. If the sheriff had quietly destroyed this liquor these people would have offered wagers that it was never destroyed at all. Now that the district judge was present they state that he was present to see that it was destroyed. There is no way on earth of satisfying everybody. The Tribune thanks our lucky stars that we are of a credulous disposition. We burke suspicions as they arise.

## WATER RIGHTS WERE TO COST \$25.00 PER ACRE.

We wish to impress upon the reader this one fact: the water rights on the Boise Government Reclamation Project were to have cost \$25.00 per acre. The actual cost is anywhere from \$65.00 to \$100.00 per acre. The difference between \$25.00 and \$65.00 per acre on every acre of land on the Boise project is the stake that the farmers are fighting for. The stake amounts to a few million dollars. It is worth fighting for. The fight is a just fight and one that the settlers can win.

## POLITICIANS BETTER GO CAREFULLY.

Those politicians who believe in ascertaining public sentiment before taking a decided stand on public questions had better move slowly and carefully on the preparedness issue. It is not at all certain that the American people are rabid for military preparedness. Henry Ford, who rivals William Jennings Bryan, as the advocate of peace-

at-any-price, and as the enemy of preparedness, is the choice of the Republicans of Michigan for president of the United States. And if of Michigan, of how many other states? The only reason on earth that Mr. Ford is even mentioned is because he is notoriously and ignorantly in favor of keeping the country weak and defenceless.

The action of the Michigan Republicans is causing consternation among those politicians who got aboard the preparedness bandwagon on the supposition that it was the popular thing to do. Michigan is a typical state. The people of other states are thinking about as the people of Michigan, or at least that is what these politicians think they are thinking. Consequently they are dismayed. They can see the popular issue going up in smoke.

There are politicians who firmly believe that the country should be brought to a state of preparedness that will enable it to repel attack. These politicians will attempt to persuade the people of the dangers of our present weakness. With them preparedness is a vital need of the country. They are unaffected by the people of Michigan or any other state. They simply see in the Michigan vote the necessity for doubling and redoubling their educational propaganda. Those politicians who simply got aboard the bandwagon to get in right, are in a sorry plight. There are a few of them in both parties. Watch closely and you will see some of the most partial hedging that has ever occurred in American politics.

## Political Phenomena.

(Idaho Falls Register)  
The political phenomenon of the present day is the growing and widespread sentiment for the nomination of Justice Hughes for president. This is, too, without one word of encouragement from him whatsoever, and also without any organized preparation; the Hughes sentiment is growing in every section of the country. This state of the public mind is indicated in the fact that the Literary Digest recently conducted a poll of the republican editors of the entire country, which showed an overwhelming sentiment for Hughes. The Nation polled its readers in nearly all the states with the same general results. We recognize the fact of the growing popularity of Roosevelt and of Root, but the fact is undeniable that Hughes today stands in the lead as the most popular man with the majority of the people, as indicated by the further fact of a poll of the republican state convention of Kansas revealed that more than half of the 853 delegates were for Hughes, while only 77 were for Col. Roosevelt, for a long time a favorite in the state of Kansas. The Boston Transcript has polled the republican members of the Massachusetts legislature, finding that 75 out of the 140 questioned were for Hughes. It should be borne in mind that the governor and both United States senators in Massachusetts have been "mentioned" for the nomination and all three had friends. There were also some strong Roosevelt members, chosen under a fusion arrangement, but only 23 signified their preference for the colonel. In hundreds of county and many congressional conventions the mention of the name of Hughes has brought tremendous applause.

The movement is genuinely spontaneous. There have been other "spontaneous" movements that were carefully fostered by political walking delegates. But the Hughes sentiment is among the people. There are some strong political influences opposing Hughes, with more or less frankness as to motives. There are several political somnambulists and somnolists who are busy in the primaries, but it is a matter of common knowledge that if Justice Hughes signified a willingness to accept the nomination the air would be filled with the noise of the explosion of boomlets. No matter what the result of the first ballots under the weird primary laws, when the Chicago convention gets down to real business, the delegates will be found for Hughes. At least so it looks to us from all present indications.

## The Big Issue in the West.

(Wallace Miner)  
The two great issues that will overshadow all others in the approaching national campaign are preparedness for national defense and the tariff. The republican party is a unit on these two questions. It stands for a system of military service that will insure a trained reserve force sufficient to meet any emergency that might involve the country in war, a standing army large enough to respond to all ordinary requirements, and a navy that will be ample to guard our coast line in connection with modern land defenses, and at the same time sufficient to command respect for the flag on every sea and protection to American citizens and property in foreign lands. It stands for a tariff that will protect American industry against foreign cheap labor, and that will restore and maintain the home market for the benefit of our home people. There is no material division of opinion among republicans upon these great questions and whoever is the nominee of the party for president can be depended upon if elected to carry out the will of the party on these vital questions.

Under these circumstances it behooves the republicans of the west to look well into the attitude of men who are now prominently considered candidates for the republican nomination for president toward the great question that touches directly their welfare, happiness and prosperity—the question of conservation of natural resources. Any man nominated will be satisfactory on preparedness and the tariff, but he may be all wrong on conservation. We know that Roosevelt is wrong on conservation and that we are now fighting against the withdrawal of power sites and leasing of mineral lands which are the natural outgrowths of the iniquitous system which he and his man Pinchot fastened upon the west, and we know that if elected president he would take up the work again, with Pinchot his chief adviser and assistant, and make conservation more offensive and vicious than ever before. Knowing this, the republicans of the west should give their support to a candidate who at least possesses an open mind on this vital question and who will listen to the voice of the west in protest against the system that robs the state of its birthright, and blocks settlement and development by withdrawing its natural resources from use. We repeat, the republicans of the west are taking

## Irrigation Fizzles.

In commenting on the work of the Reclamation Service with special reference to the Boise project the Elk River Sentinel says:  
When the government swindles a citizen it is an "administrative error" and is never permitted to worry anyone for a moment except the man swindled; when a man or a corporation swindles a citizen it is a crime, to be punished, and properly, by an extended stay on McNeil's Island or at Fort Leavenworth. This peculiar doctrine of the immunity of the man in a government job is given point by the history of the government irrigation projects in south Idaho.

To get appropriations the reclamation service stated low figures on what the people would have to pay for the irrigation costs on such land. Then as the work progressed the costs mounted until the settlers who moved on the small tracts set aside for them are bankrupt before they start. They can never grow anything that will yield them a profit on land on which they have to pay such enormous fixed charges as the government jobsters have run up.

And they cannot sue the government in court; no one is allowed to do so. They are trying to have the money of which they were robbed restored but with small hope of success, while those who caused these losses are still holding high positions in the reclamation service and are protected by the present secretary of the interior.

## The Coconut's Three Eyes.

(Philadelphia North American)  
Who can tell why the coconut has three eyes? Luther Burbank explains it this way:  
Coconuts grow generally at the edge of the sea or rivers. The nuts are surrounded with a thick husk with a waterproof covering so that when they drop into the water they will float. In floating, the three eyes are always on top.

Once in the water nature gets busy. From one of the eyes there comes a shoot which develops broad leaves like sails. The wind catches the sails and wafts the coconut on a journey sometimes many miles long. As it sails, the other two eyes develop roots, which at first grow among the fibres of the woody husk.

In good season the coconut is swept upon another shore, perhaps on another island. The roots imbed themselves in the soft earth, the sail becomes the trunk, and a coconut palm is growing where none grew before.

## An Insect Barometer.

Here is a cheap way of ascertaining "Zepp weather." Given a good healthy leech, a glass jar half filled with water, and tied down with paper, pinpricked with holes, one has a barom-

## Verdun, to Save the Face.

(From the Brooklyn Eagle)  
The German people have been fed upon victories since August, 1914. When victories were not forthcoming they were given promise of victories. When other efforts proved futile the desperate assault upon Verdun was begun. Once begun, those who know themselves to be held responsible for the success of the enterprise dare not confess failure. German high command has no choice between victory or defeat at Verdun. It must be victory or a crumbling of German military prestige where it has most to lose—at home. So the battle of Verdun goes on.

## We are a very Humane Outfit.

It follows that we rather enjoy the sensation which we experience these days as our customers commence to find out that we are making good in our efforts to be more serviceable.

We started a couple of years ago in this direction and we are going a little faster every day.

Our big boss, the public, is showing approval in a very substantial way. Our office is becoming headquarters for building ideas and suggestions. Our service is yours any minute you ask for it.

## GEM STATE LUMBER CO.

Successors to Gates Lumber Co.  
Caldwell—Notus—Sunny Slope  
W. I. Stevens, Manager, Caldwell, Ida

GETTING STARTED  
IS  
SOMETIMES  
HARD

The "beginnings" of a bank account are the only real difficulties. Sometimes the small depositor has to make several "false starts" toward a comfortable balance—but in this as in all else in life, "hold-fast is the only dog," and the persistent man wins.

The First National Bank  
CALDWELL, IDAHO