

The Alliance Herald

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MAKING DEMOCRATIC VOTES

One prominent Box Butte county republican is moved to lament Governor McKelvie's obstinacy in insisting on calling for a special session of the legislature, when public sentiment was overwhelmingly opposed to it. "He will make more democratic votes in a month than all the orators of that party could convert in a year," was the comment. Democrats, of course, trust that this prediction will be carried out, and indications are, so far as the first few days of the session are concerned, that the governor is getting results for the democrats.

Mr. McKelvie cannot afford to fly in the face of public sentiment if he has further political ambitions. He has been credited with the desire to be the next United States senator from Nebraska. Despite an announcement from him that he intended to retire from politics, he is still looked upon as a potential, almost as a logical candidate.

But the special session is not doing him any good personally. For that matter, it is doubtful, if it will be of any great benefit to the state. The gasoline tax proposed by the governor is admittedly an unpopular measure. The cut of over two million dollars in appropriations has turned out to be a boomerang. When the last budget was made up, the appropriations were set at a figure that was plainly high. Some people think they were made purposely high, so that the governor's budget and code system could be given credit for saving the state more money. In his message to the legislature, Governor McKelvie recommended certain cuts in the appropriations. The total was imposing. But the legislators aren't convinced that the state officials are giving till it hurts. The refusal of some of them to consider a 5 per cent cut in salary on the ground that it was unconstitutional, has stuck in their craw.

The result is that the legislators are not disposed to leave the appropriations where the governor has placed them. The fun has just started, of course, but before many days it will cease to be fun. Thus, when the governor recommended the appropriation for the support of Gus Hyers' department be reduced to \$30,000, the finance committee made a further cut of \$15,000, and on the floor of the house an attempt was made to lop off another \$50,000. The legislature shows signs, on most of the items fixed by the governor and his budget secretary, of making the state officials be really economical.

The governor has also made a lot of enemies by appointing members to fill vacancies in the house. After a whole lot of ireful discussion, some of them were seated, but the vote was close and although enough of the republican majority was mustered to seat the appointees, there is a bad taste left in the mouth. The supreme court, when appealed to for a ruling, refused to get its fingers burned.

The house has also appointed a committee to make an investigation of State Engineer Johnson's department, that gentleman having indicated that he desired something of the sort. The state engineer wanted an investigation of county expenditures carried on at the same time, and kindly offered to furnish half the help and pay half the cost, at state expense, of course, but the house wasn't particularly concerned with what Mr. Johnson desired. The senate adopted a similar resolution, but later giggered back, saying that the governor's call didn't include this subject and that the motion was out of order.

Altogether, the special session shows signs of developing into a rather interesting affair before it is over. The democrats are feeling pretty good over it, as every day further evidence of discord in the enemy's ranks is discernible.

THE FUTURE OF POTASH.

The owners of stock in various Nebraska potash companies, who have been holding fast to the belief that in some way the industry and their money might be saved if congress could only be prevailed upon to approve a protective tariff on the German product high enough to enable the plants to get on their feet again, may as well nerve themselves to kiss the coin good-bye. Congress has not, at any time, been favorable to the

tariff on potash, let alone being friendly.

Not only has congress been exceedingly slow to act, but the potash-buying interests have been against the adoption of a tariff that will put them at the mercy of home producers. They recall how, during the war, the price sky-rocketed with no foreign competition to keep it down, and they will use their influence, which is fairly powerful, to keep the same situation from recurring.

An editorial in the last issue of Sunset, on "High Potash Prices and Cheap Cotton," is interesting, inasmuch as it gives the arguments that are now being urged against protection for our own infant industry. If the charges made can be substantiated, we might as well give up all hope of any comeback of western Nebraska's potash industry. Sunset says:

The production of potash was one of the few brand-new war babies born in the far west. While German potash was inaccessible, these plants, extracting potash from kelp, from the brine of saline lakes in the desert and from alunite, multiplied and prospered. The kelp plants closed down immediately after the armistice when potash slumped. As soon as German potash was available again in quantities, the other plants suspended operation one after the other. Their production cost was too high. They could not compete with the imported salts.

Now it is proposed in the Fordney tariff bill to remedy this situation by placing a stiff duty on imported potash, reducing the amount of this duty in five successive years in order to give the new western industry a chance to take root and develop. But this proposal meets with opposition. The potato and tobacco growers of New England, the cotton and tobacco planters of the south are objecting vociferously. They point out that the west can not supply more than one-fifth of the country's potash needs unless new and at present unknown deposits of great magnitude are discovered; they also point out that the western potash must always pay a very high rail freight rate from the point of production to the point of consumption, and they estimate that they, the potato, tobacco and cotton growers, will have to pay out \$34,000,000 in increased potash prices for the benefit of an industry which will not be able to supply the demand by 80 per cent.

Is the far west justified in asking for this protection if there is no chance that it will ever supply enough potash to make America independent of Europe?

THE BONUS OUTLOOK.

Ex-soldiers out of a job—and there are plenty of them in other places, although the list is small in Alliance and other of the smaller cities—are beginning to feel better. The change in their attitude is due to the changed attitude of the republican congress and the republican president on the subject of a soldier bonus, or compensation, as the national officers of the ex-service men's organization prefer to say it.

The change in the attitude of the party in power is a refutation of the charge that it is folly to butt one's head against a stone wall. The Legion leaders have fought with no other weapons than their heads, and they have apparently gained the victory. President Harding is the spokesman for his party. Four days before the 1920 landslide which carried him into office, at Cincinnati, Mr. Harding said these memorable words: "I want to say to the service men here that I want an America that will never forget its gratitude for the service they rendered the country." Now he shows signs of living up to the implied promise in his words.

When the president assumed the office, however, he found there were strong forces opposed to any sort of bonus. Several national organizations that represented the financial interests of the country spoke out openly. The new secretary of the treasury was bitter in his opposition. This situation continued for a year.

And then a change came. Nobody knows just why the bonus should have become popular overnight, but that's about what happened. The reasons are probably more or less political. Otherwise, it is unlikely that men who strongly fought the program of the ex-soldiers should capitulate without an argument.

The plan, as set forth in the bill which has been introduced in the house of representatives, provides for compensation for the ex-soldiers, with a choice of five optional plans. One of these includes a national system of reclamation to be initiated through adequate federal appropriations and to be carried out for the purpose of affording ex-service men opportunity to cultivate the soil. Another provides for appropriations to enable ex-service men to build homes. A third allows ex-service men to elect to receive vocational education. A fourth would give the ex-service man a paid-up insurance policy of the twenty-year endowment sort. The last is for a cash bonus, to be paid at once. Several amounts have been suggested, but the one most in favor calls for a dollar for each day of service, with a limit of \$500.

Strangely enough, the cash bonus, which has been most bitterly opposed, would be the least expensive for the country.

The American Legion Weekly, official organ of the Legion, has been doing its best to answer the charge that if a bonus is granted, the ex-service men will proceed to waste it in riotous living and in an orgy of spending. The Weekly has investigated the result in New Jersey, where soldiers received a check for \$100 from the state. Here are some of the ways the ex-soldiers spent the money:

"It helped to buy furniture for my home, and it didn't buy very much at that," one doughboy declared. "I put it in the savings bank and some day it will help build a home," was the answer of another. A third paid his board bill with most of it, and the rest went to buy an overcoat. Another went into business, and found that his hundred dollars was just enough to make a payment on a shipment of goods. One man used his in getting married, and discovered that "it didn't go very far." The savings banks reported a noticeable increase in the number of new accounts opened.

The Legion's contention is that compensation is not a gift, but a repayment, in slight measure, for the economic loss suffered by the men who entered the service. This was a very definite loss. Compare any two men in the same vocation, one of whom went to war and the other who kept the home fires burning. So far as the financial end of the game is concerned, it will be found that the man who stayed at home during the best business period the country has ever known now has undoubtedly a big advantage over the fellow who heard and answered his country's call, whether he had to be prodded into it or went cheerfully. The fivefold compensation plan will do much to overcome that economic inequality.

JOHN THOMPSON'S IDEA.

Every man is entitled to have one big idea during a normal lifetime, and John R. Thompson of Chicago has already had his. Just who John may be, or what his vocation, the literature he has sent us neglects to state. Neither is it made plain who is financing him. Someone is spending a lot of money on John's crusade against the pistol and revolver, and unless he has interested Henry Ford, who once fell for the peace ship idea, it must be quite a drain on his pocketbook. After all, the important thing is not John himself, or his backers, but the idea.

Mr. Thompson has a remedy for a good share of crime. He would prohibit the manufacture or the sale of the revolver and the pistol, and make it a felony, punishable by five years of actual imprisonment at hard labor, for the person having either of these weapons in his possession. Some time ago, apparently, the idea came to him. He inserted an advertisement in many newspapers, offering \$1,000 to anyone who would give one reason why the revolver manufacturing industry should be allowed to exist in America and enjoy the facilities of the mails. There were hundreds of replies, but not one of them was rewarded with the thousand dollars. Therefore, Mr. Thompson claims that there is no good reason.

His argument is quite easily followed, and there is undoubtedly something to be said for his logic. The revolver is a secret weapon, John declares. The whole nature of the brute is secret. It is made to be carried about the person without others being aware of its existence. It is the weapon of the highwayman, the train robber, the holdup man, the thug, the policeman killer and the bank robber. The armed burglar is a coward without his pistol. "If the holdup man knew he would have to serve five years in the penitentiary for having a revolver in his possession, he would think twice before putting it in his pocket or using it."

John's idea is a good one. At least it's the best one he has had. If, along with international disarmament, we could have individual disarmament, everything would be lovely. Crime would diminish, although it would hardly disappear. The same difficulty appears in advocating individual disarmament as in disarmament of nations. If nations keep the faith and actually disarm, the problem of war is solved. But will they? If individuals no longer carry concealed weapons, there'll be an awful crimp in crime waves. But will they do it, no matter how strict the law on the subject?

Already there are laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons, aimed at the pistol and the revolver. But thugs will carry them. There are laws prohibiting burglary and bank robbery and automobile thievery, with stiff punishment, but these crimes are being committed in greater numbers than they were when the laws were enacted. From time to time, the laws have been amended, and the penalties stiffened, but so long as there is a good haul in sight, the burglars and yeggmen stay on the job.

Here's the main difficulty with that kind of disarmament. The law abiding citizens and the law enforcement officers would obey the law. They'd turn in their weapons. But can you imagine a burglar turning in his pistol? Not on your life, John. He'd

buy up all the ammunition he could get. The householder and the police could carry sawed-off shotguns and high-powered rifles, but the burglar with the automatic would have an entire household or an entire police force killed off before they could get into action with the bulkier artillery. As it is, the housebreaker has the advantage. If the householder were prohibited from having weapons, he'd furnish an ever better target for the burglar who, already a lawbreaker, will cheerfully wink at any legislation designed to make life harder for him.

John's idea to abolish pistols and revolvers deserves a place in the front row of the hall of humor, along with Henry Ford's peace ship and the scheme of a great suffrage leader. She expected to end the war by having fifty thousand women, all robed in white, meet the invading forces with uplifted hands. What John overlooks is that the criminal element aren't playing the game according to the rules. If they were, they'd be making their livelihood in some other way.

A poor man can't afford a valet, but he can get married.

EPPERSON HAS BILL TO PUT TAX ON RABBITS

LINCOLN—Representative Epperson of Clay county has a bill which he is considering offering as a substitute for Governor McKelvie's gasoline tax measure. In place of putting a sales tax on motor fuel Epperson would have one levied on rabbits. "Nothing uses the public highways as much as do the rabbits," declares the Clay county representative. "If you doubt this, drive out into the country at night and you will find the thoroughfare crowded with these animals. Nor do they run along smoothly, as does a flivver. On the contrary they dot the surface of the roadway with innumerable pits, showing where each one comes down from his leap. They should be made to pay for the upkeep of the highways which they use."

Mr. Epperson states that the only criticism his proposed measure has en-

countered is as to detail. He proposes a graduated tax, requiring rabbits with long wheel base to pay fifteen cents, while those with shorter base should be required to pay only a dime. He is still working on the bill, however, and hopes in time to be able to offer to the legislature an act upon which they can agree.

THAT'S DIFFERENT

"Oh, Dad," gushed the young thing, bursting into her father's office. "I've just ordered a knickerbocker suit at Madame Marie's, but I left my purse at home. Will you—"

"No, I won't," interrupted her parent with a glare. "I won't have a daughter of mine gallivanting around in those pants contraptions. The idea—"

"Oh, Daddy, but it's not for me. It's for mamma."

"Well, that's different," answered the tyrant, digging into his jeans.—

Specials For The Week End

- Two \$1.00 bottles of 5 grain Aspirin tablets, for **\$1.01**
- Almond hand lotion **20c**
- 35c Jergen's Benzoin 25c jar Paroxone vanishing cream (a real peroxide cream) two for **26c**
- 15c bar of Williams wistaria toilet soap, 2 for **16c**
- 25c Nailoid Cuticle Solvent, two for **26c**
- 50c Violet Dulce theatrical rouge, two for **51c**
- 50c tube Chlorox tooth paste, two for **51c**

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