

Intermountain Tribune

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

SUBSCRIPTION, IN ADVANCE.....\$1.25
AT END OF YEAR 1.50
SIX MONTHS75

ADVERTISING RATES:

Local advertising, per line.....5c
Display advertising, per inch.....10c
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REDUCTION OF TAXATION

The Tribune's statement will not be questioned when it states that every body thinks taxes are too high and that we get too little benefit in return for the large sums of tax moneys collected from the people every year. We have gradually constructed a state government which is cumbersome, unwieldy, inefficient and most extravagant. Apparently we elect but few more state officials than formerly, but we have allowed these officials to multiply their employes almost without limit and, in addition, we have created nearly forty commissions, all at large expense, of which two-thirds of them are unnecessary. Go to the capitol building and through any one of the many departments of government and you will see employes so numerous that it requires a great part of their time to get out of each others way. We have allowed commissions to become so numerous that the state house, large as it is, does not furnish office room enough for them.

Now, one-half of the persons employed could be dispensed with, easily, if the other half were efficient and would work as they would have to work if employed in private endeavor. And, also, if these employes would be imbued with a spirit and desire to accomplish the largest possible amount of work during the hours employed instead of devising ways and plans to do the least amount, a vast reduction in the cost of each department would result.

This same spirit of rendering the least possible of work, and getting the largest amount of money therefor, reaches down into our county and municipal governments as well. Even our school and road districts are not free from the taint. All departments, from the highest to the lowest are tinctured with grafting and favoritism.

Our legislature for many years, seemingly, has devoted a large part of its time in devising new departments and commissions, which multiply employes but add little if anything to the efficiency of our state government. Of course the intent of our legislators, most of them, was to add efficiency to the state government, but we all know that they have not. For instance, we have a fish and game commission, costing the state over \$100,000 per year directly and another \$50,000 indirectly. Is this commission with its long list of employes whose most exhaustive duties are to draw their salaries, worth that amount of money to the state?

Everybody but the commission and its employes will say NO. The same can be said of nearly all of our other state commissions.

How can we eradicate or minimize this cancerous growth? How can we cause the state official or employe to work as industriously for the state as he would for himself or for a private employer? These are questions of which the people

are thinking deeply these taxpaying days.

There are four bodies of officials which have power to remove or minimize the growth of this cancer—the legislature, the county courts and the city councils and the people.

The first three mentioned, have power to directly remedy the evil and the last, power to remove the same through initiative law or to annul laws enacted by the legislature or city council or the rulings of the county court.

It can be seen, then, that we, the people, should exercise the utmost care in selecting candidate for these several positions. All of these officials, figuratively, have their hands in the people's pockets. They are, so to speak, legalized highwaymen possessing power to say "stand and deliver" and to enforce their demands. The people have no option but to walk up to the captain's office and settle. Therefore, is it not wisdom to elect men or women to these places who are honest, who are broadminded and who are economical?

The people will soon be required to select officials from among the numerous candidates to these places. The Tribune urges that it is now no time to play favorites. You may not like a candidate, for instance, personally, yet he may be the very best candidate offered for the place. Then, it is your duty to forget personalities and, even, political favorites in order to get the very best men as legislators or members of the county court. Can you not see that if you assist in electing a man not qualified for these places that you are, not only doing yourself a wrong but your neighbor as well? The man or woman who has made a failure of his or her own affairs, or who is young and inexperienced, no matter if he or she is, personally, a good fellow, is not good material for either the legislature, county court or city council.

After the primary election is over and candidates have been selected, if the nominee of your political party is inferior in qualifications and fitness to that of his opposing party candidate, it is your undoubted duty to vote for the opposing candidate at the general election. You want and all want good economical government and the candidate best calculated to secure this end, should be elected.

Therefore, on primary election day, be on hand and assist in selecting the best among the aspirants offered by your own party. Then attend the general election and assist in electing the best man, regardless of his political affiliation.

Another plan to reduce taxation, is a just and equitable valuation of property for tax purposes. The man or woman who fails to make a true return of his holdings, is guilty of both perjury and stealing from his neighbors in that he makes the tax burden heavier for his neighbors. Taxation can be reduced in still another way. If every person who works for the state, county, school district, city or road district, would render a full measure of labor for the money he receives, the number of employes could be reduced all along the line from the highest to the lowest.

It can be seen, then, that the people themselves are to blame for the outrageous taxes we are compelled to pay annually. We should, not only, require honesty, economy and efficiency on the part of public officials, but we should be honest with ourselves and neighbors.

WHY NOT BE FAIR

Most all leading republican newspapers seem to take particular delight, not only in misconstruing what President Wilson says, but to read in an almost a contrary mean-

ing to which he intends to convey in his utterances. Why not be fair about this matter, gentlemen? Why not have a few ounces of patriotic red blood in your veins? Why not, before condemning, give the policies he advocates a reasonably fair trial? Then, if it can be shown that he is not pursuing the better course in a certain line of procedure, show wherein he is wrong and outline the better course.

Now all or nearly all of these newspapers condemn the President for advocating the repeal of free tolls for American coastwise vessels through the canal. They say he is unAmerican and is toadying to England in pursuing this course.

President Wilson desires that, when opened, the canal shall be selfsupporting. So do the American people. He desires that tonnage toll charges shall be no higher than necessary to provide this support. So do the American people. He believes that free tolls for American coastwise vessels will but add to the profits of the American ships and that the people will not be benefitted in the way of cheaper goods thereby. So do the American people. He knows that free tolls for coastwise vessels means a higher toll charge for other vessels, else the people will, through taxation, make up the deficiency and this fact is patent to everybody who thinks, as well.

If it could be demonstrated that the American consumer of manufactured goods would be able to buy cheaper because of free tonnage from coast to coast, then everybody would favor free tolls. But all know that such will not be the case. All know that ships will carry freight no cheaper than is necessary in order to get the business and that free tolls is simply a subsidy for these ships in disguise.

Therefore, while the President's advocacy of repeal can be distorted into a desire to toady to the interests of foreign ships, such is not his purpose and, doubtless, is in nowise a factor in the views he entertains. Of course our own war vessels will not be required to pay toll, for that would be the same as taking money from one pocket and placing it in another, while foreign war vessels will be required to pay. Nor will foreign nations find fault, for they expect this to be the ruling.

These newspapers condemn the President because of his Mexican policy. So did the newspapers condemn President McKinley for his Cuban policy and dilatoriness in declaring war on Spain. The Mexican condition is very much similar to that of Spain in the treatment of the Cubans. Spain treated Cuba very arbitrarily and murdered her people under the slightest pretext, just as the ruling power of Mexico has treated the Mexicans. Rebellion resulted in each instance. The Spanish overlords confiscated property under the slightest pretexts, just as Diaz, and Madero did and Huerta is now doing in Mexico.

President Wilson knows, evidently, that the United States will have to intervene in the end, but he wishes to exhaust every other means before he resorts to the arbitrament of the sword. Why not be patient, gentlemen? President Wilson is, doubtless, in possession of all the facts bearing upon the situation. These newspapers are not and are influenced by the partisan views of their news correspondents.

In most matters of legislation the newspapers have indorsed the President's course. While they, at least some of them, disagree with him upon the lately enacted tariff law, they are withholding criticism until the law is fairly tried out. They all applaud the Regional Banking and Currency law. Why not be patient and allow him to work out

(Continued on page 3)

Farmers—Stockmen

Put Your Stock in Thriving Condition

Now is the time of year that your work horses should be put in condition for the hard work of spring and summer, so that when the sun shines, your horses will be rid of their old coat and ready for business. Be sure, also, that your milk cows are thoroughly conditioned for the long, heavy milking season, and that those with calves are vigorous and fit.

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Is a splendid conditioner, a sure worm expeller and will put your animals in a thriving condition, make the ailing ones healthy and expel the worms

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T. D. O'BRIEN, Assistant Cashier

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We pay interest on time deposits
We have safety deposit boxes to rent
We want your business and will
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