"Inside Information" About Maxwell "Expose"--By Ray McKaig

(EDITORS NOTE—The letter which follows came to the Leader unsolicited either by the Leader or Mr. Townley. Its author, Ray McKaig, is a North Dakota farmer, who served as secretary and later as master of the North Dakota state Grange. Mr. McKaig is a fighting farmer known in several states. He toured Colorado and other states in the interests of getting the farmers organized and is now in Idaho, helping in the good fight for the farmers' candidates there. He knew Maxwell well, and what he says about Maxwell and about the president of the League is based on personal contact with both men. Inasmuch as Maxwell, in his famous articles, mentioned McKaig as a friend who gave him as authority for certain facts concerning the League, McKaig's letter is particularly interesting.)

To the Editor of the Leader:

Rev. S. R. Maxwell, in his so-called expose of the Nonpartisan league, sees fit I conclude me as evidence to back up his "exposure." He says I gave him the information about the Courier-News of Fargo being owned by A. C. Townley, and that the latter can spend millions unchecked. Rev. Maxwell deliberately falsifies. I never told him any such thing.

IF THE REST OF THE LEAGUE MEN ARE AS SADLY MISQUOTED AS I AM IN THIS ARTICLE, THEN HIS EXPOSURE IS NOTHING BUT A FABRICATION OF FALSEHOODS. From my own personal knowledge, throughout the entire "exposure" there is woven a thread of falsity with a seeming frankness that is almost diabolical in its distortion of truth.

Rev. Maxwell speaks a story about me in Colorado. I talked to John Morris, state master of the Grange, and other prominent farmers . . . I said that I had refused to be in his company at that St. Paul convention for fear one of the management might see us together and jealous spirits would soon begin working against us both. That statement to the Colorado people was an absolute lie. He repeats that same story in his "expose". He refers to me in this article as that "dear friend."

I MIGHT ADD THAT MANY TIMES I HAVE BEEN INSULTED IN MY LIFE. I HAVE BEEN CALLED VILE AND OBSCENE NAMES ON VARIOUS SADDY OCCASIONS, BUT TO HAVE HIM, REV. BENEDICT MAXWELL, CALL ME HIS "DEAR FRIEND," IS THE MOST VILE EPITHET EVER HANDED TO ME.

CHARGES MAXWELL WROTE BACON BOOK

About three months ago, before Maxwell was fired, I wrote in to the St. Paul League office, telling them that a part of Jerry Bacon's so-called expose, the "Townleyism" pamphlet, had been written by Mr. Maxwell. I detected Maxwell phraseology in it. I think I gave sufficient evidence to the League office that Mr. Maxwell had been drawing salary in this League, pretending for many months to be fighting for the cause, yet at the time was deservedly drawing pay from Jerry Bacon. He worked for the League only as a pretense. Writing traitorous stuff from the inside of the League to Bacon, yet he would work himself into a frenzy as a speaker against Jerry Bacon's "Kept press."

Any man that will so live, so act, this Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde life, and draw pay for the same, and betray such a cause as the Nonpartisan league—Benedict Arnold was a gentleman compared to him. It is very evident that he helped write that "Townleyism" expose—nearly a year ago—and gave it for a price to Jerry Bacon. **ALL THESE LAST 11 MONTHS, WHILE PRETENDING FOR THE FARMER, HE HAS BEEN HIRED BY BACON.** The League headquarters at St. Paul could not conceive of a man of Maxwell's religious training, so treacherous and so far away from the teaching of Christ. They refused at first to believe Maxwell could be so deceitful. A minister of God would never stoop to such depths of infamy, they thought.

"FRIEND OF FARMERS" TALK ALL BUNK.

Rev. Maxwell, in his so-called "exposure," in every other paragraph poses that he is not after the League. Oh, no! And that he believes the cause of the League and the League is all right, but Townley is all wrong. He is only after Townley. Townley, he says, is a despot, a tyrant, and Townley must go. I might have believed such bunk as that if I had never known about the late C. E. Kegley, who was the fighting state master of the farmers' Grange of Washington for about 12 years.

Mr. Kegley made the state Grange of Washington a militant organization. They helped defeat the schools, the selfish railroad interests, the attempted steals of the public domain, the fish trust. In general, Kegley made the state Grange very unpopular with the "profiteers."

For over eight years the "big business" interests of the state of Washington tried to get the state Grange; they tried to crush it and annihilate it by crushing Kegley. But they never said so openly. They went after Kegley. They said the state Grange is all right. They said the state Grange is a grand organization, but it is that man Kegley who is the despot, the tyrant, Kegley is the crook, the politician, and Kegley must be defeated. Well, they knew that if they could get Kegley they might cripple the Washington state Grange. Various little "Maxwells" rose and fell, but Kegley and the Grange soon forced them.

KEGLEY WINS FIGHT AGAINST PROFITEERS

Three years ago at Burlington, Wash., when the state Grange met the big business interests went ahead and bought a newspaper and installed it there for the very purpose of defeating Kegley. But Kegley beat them by a tremendous vote and Kegley remained master until his death, harrassed but triumphant. The farmers knew he was their friend. Now that Kegley is dead, those same interests that fought Mr. Kegley are fighting Mr. Bouck, the present state master, and Bouck is fighting them. These "interests" pretend friendship for the Grange, but they say, "You must get rid of Mr. Bouck." It is the same story as against Kegley. The same Maxwells (only a dozen) are defending the Walla Walla politicians for expelling the Grange. But Bouck and the Grange will easily defeat them. We will always have traitors.

IT WAS THE SAME STORY IN NORTH DAKOTA IN THE DAYS OF THE OLD EQUITY FIGHT. GET GEORGE LOFTUS, THE BIG WHEAT GAMBLERS SAID BUT IT WAS NOT LOFTUS THESE INTERESTS WERE AFTER; IT WAS THE FARMERS' EQUITY. THEY KNEW THAT IF THEY COULD GET THE FARMERS DIVIDED ON MR. LOFTUS, THE FARMERS' EQUITY WOULD NEUTRALIZE ITSELF BY INTERNAL DIFFERENCES. Loftus died, his death hastened by these merciless enemies. Today those various grain interests, through their mouthpiece, the kept press, land Mr. Loftus to the skies. Yesterday they tried to crucify him.

SOUTH DAKOTA FIGHT SAME KIND OF FIGHT

It is the same story with Henry Loucks of South Dakota in the Populist fights. Get Mr. Loucks, the "bugbear" said. There did seems to be about him—that he was a fugitive from justice, a thief. They tried to cripple the confidence of the farmers in their leader, the grand old man, Mr. Loucks, who was the father of the Populist party. It was not Loucks they were after, it was the Populist reform movement they wanted to stop.

So it is with the betraying Maxwells. They live for the interests, betraying the farmers for price and position.

Mr. Maxwell says it is not the Nonpartisan league he is exposing. Oh, no! He says it is Mr. Townley he is after. **WOULD THE FALSE NEWSPAPERS OF MINNESOTA BUY THIS EXPOSURE OF TOWNLEY UNLESS THE LEAGUE WERE INVOLVED?** Would they pay Maxwell the silver to hurt Townley unless they could injure the League? Many of us have heard this story before—the old old of Townley. But it is the LEAGUE these interests are after.

MAXWELL SHOWS JUDAS HOW IT'S DONE.

I WANT TO SAY RIGHT NOW, FROM MY EXPERIENCE THAT A. C. TOWNLEY IS ONE OF THE GREATEST FARMER LEADERS IN AMERICA AT THIS TIME. He is using his ability as a great argonizer to putting this League program across. You cannot blame Townley for being distrustful of so many men and cherishing this League and guarding it closely, when even preachers of the gospel will worm their way into this organization that they might betray it. Because Maxwell could not displace Townley he is sore. Maxwell got a little more silver than Judas acquired in his betrayal. Judas was a piker compared to Rev. Maxwell.

Townley is essentially honest, fundamentally honest. He hates the ways and the wiles of "big business" as no man I know of. Delay makes him restless. When big grain gamblers broke him eight years ago they never knew the grief he would some day give them. His ambition is to make the American farmer independent of the grain speculators. He is determined, before he quits, to put this reform movement across and get the yoke off the American producer.

I have known Townley for a number of years. He has never lied to any friends of mine that I ever heard of. Townley is absolutely on the square. If the profiteers get Townley they will get the Nonpartisan league. The League is only three years old. Townley must guide the League till enough true leaders develop over these northwest states to carry on the work.

If Townley is displaced the League would suffer. These big interests care not the snap of their fingers for Townley, except that he is in their way when they wish to steal millions. He is calling a halt to the plunderbund. These "knights of plunder" of the Twin Cities and their allied interests are spending and will spend millions in the fight against the League. Townley they are not after. It is the Nonpartisan league they wish to sap.

By choice I am in the League work, living here in Idaho and doing my bit to help establish this cause. As a recent officer of the farmers' state Grange, I want to go on record that this man Townley has been absolutely square with the American farmers. When 20 years have gone by, Townley, like Kegley of the Grange and Loucks of the Populist party will be known as one of the great emancipators of the American producer.

RAY MCKAIG,
Past Master of North Dakota State Grange.

The country newspaper is a mighty power, but it is shirking its duty when it follows the lead of the big daily newspapers that are controlled and published only in the interests of big business.—MESABA ORE, HIBBING, MINN.

Now that the federal trade commission has informed the country that "short weights" are a favorite method with the packers, we have a much better idea of what is meant in the packers' ads by "superior efficiency."

By a strange coincidence Governor Burnquist resumed his "loyalty" addresses just at the time the Nonpartisan league put a candidate in the field against him.

TOWNLEY DEFIES BOISE MOBSTERS

POWER COMPANY FAILS IN ORGANIZED EFFORT TO ASSAULT SPEAKERS AND BREAK UP MONSTER FARMERS MEETING.

"Townley shall not speak tonight!" Thus shouted some 75 to 80 business men and thugs as they rushed from their hiding places on the steps of the Capitol building at Boise, Idaho, and hurried toward the League speakers in an effort to make good the threat.

The five thousand people who had assembled to hear A. C. Townley were for the moment too astonished to give expression to their indignation but when there arose and confronted the mobsters 300 farmers who had been sworn in in anticipation of just such happenings the audience broke into cheers and the pot-valiant mob came to a sudden halt. Their slogan that "Townley shall not speak tonight" died away in a miserable wail.

"DEFENSE COUNCIL" BLUNDERS

The Ada County "defense league" had blundered, they had calculated without the spirit of courageous, but tolerant purpose with which the farmers and people of Boise were filled. They had come there prepared to inflict bodily harm upon the person of Mr. Townley, they went away chastened and filled with gloom.

It is not expected that this will be the end of their unlawful and autocratic activities for they are rendered desperate by the power which the League has developed in Idaho, and must do the bidding of their masters, the Power company, at all hazards. They are destined to defeat however.

That they are destined to utter defeat and fully realise the fact does not tend to make them the less intolerant as the following from the Idaho Leader will show.

"STRONG ARM" METHOD

The so-called "Defense league" was formed with the avowed purpose, so members declare, of using "strong arm" methods. These methods have been directed against the farmers and organized labor.

It was McVety who signed the proclamation against Townley as "acting chairman" of the "Defense league." McVety is a political henchman of Governor Alexander, and an outspoken hater of the Nonpartisan league.

Their efforts to rush President Townley on the steps of the capitol was the closing act in their program, which had been carefully planned for several days, and included the tarring and feathering of Townley and W. G. Scholtz, head of the Nonpartisan league in Idaho.

WORKED FOR SMALL CROWD

President Townleys coming to Boise had been advertised by the League in every county in the state and by many newspapers including those in Boise. As an offset to this, the "Defense league" had also been circulating the story that Townley did not expect to come, and that this was merely a "bluff" of Scholtz to get "notoriety" and a big audience for Governor Frazier of North Dakota and H. F. Samuels, League candidate for governor of Idaho.

But they prepared to receive Townley while trying to discourage farmers and League supporters into thinking he was not coming and so keep them from attending. They wanted as small an audience as possible, as the entire "Defense league" membership is but 600, and not more than 75 to 100 of them were in sympathy with the Hawley-Paine-McVety mob plans.

POLICE TAKE HAND.

When the time came to introduce President Townley to the audience that filled the Pinney theater, both the theatre management and police officers interferred and declared they would not permit him to speak.

The manager said he had promised the mob leaders that he would not let Townley speak in his theater. The policemen said they had orders to arrest him if he tried to speak. But the audience had come to hear Townley, had been promised by Scholtz that they would hear Townley, and were determined not to be disappointed. Their enthusiasm was keen from the moment they realized he was in the house.

H. F. Samuels was on the stage and had just finished his address.

"You have been told that President Townley is not to speak to you tonight," he began. "President Townley is here in this room now. Do you want Townley to speak"

DEMAND FOR TOWNLEY.

"You bet we do!" "Townley, Townley, Townley!" Bring him out!" "We'll stick!" and other calls sounded from the audience.

"All who want to hear Townley speak, stand up," said Samuels.

The crowd stood up as one person. Samuels waved them to their seats again.

"Now all who don't want to hear Townley, stand up," he said. Nobody arose. This demonstration of unanimous support was followed by laughter and renewed calls for Townley.

While Mr. Scholtz, the theater management, and the police were trying to reach an agreement, President Townley cut it all short by announcing that he would go to the capitol steps where Governor Frazier had spoken a few minutes before, and where other local speakers were at that moment holding an audience of several thousand.

Scholtz carried this message from the leader to the platform.

Many in the audience declared the mob was waiting to get Townley and his life would be in danger. Renewed demands for him to speak in the building were made, but Scholtz told the audience to adjourn to the capitol steps and that Townley would shortly appear and positively would speak to them in spite of threats and lawlessness.

TOWNLEY SPEAKS.

No sooner did Mr. Townley make his appearance on the capitol steps than mob leaders began calling for his name.

"Who is that?" they asked.

"Is your name Townley?"

In reply Townley looked them straight in the eye and calmly said; "My name is A. C. Townley."

The ensuing rush to assault the League leader was instantly checked by stalwart farmers who stood in readiness and who handed the disturbers over to the sheriff.

Mr. Townley addressed the crowd who listened to his explanations of the League and its purpose until long after midnight.

Political Assassins Playing The Game

(Continued from Page One)

vote, regardless of political affiliations was delivered for Dr. Lanstrum.

Senator Walsh being unopposed left the old democrats free to herd for the time being with their political antagonists (?) of the republican camp.

Now, altho the League had given no indorsement anywhere, save in the matter of state senators and representatives, there naturally existed a great deal of real regard for the Montana congresswoman which while clearly expressing itself in counties indorsing on the republican ticket was utterly impossible of manifestation in such places as were democratic, the primary law being what it is.

There were many democratic counties, for instance, in which the League carried everything from state senator to public administrator, where League members and their friends voted solidly for the League indorsements and this, with admirable insight into the nature of the case. Our friends, the old gang, will be extremely foolish if they imagine that this meant opposition to Miss Rankin, it simply means that altho the support was there aplenty, it was rendered nugatory by the existence of a stupid and vicious primary law.

We venture to suggest that should Miss Rankin decide to run on an independent or national ticket, as the rumor has it; quite a different tale will be told at the general election where one may express one's political convictions unhindered by carefully arranged statutory barriers.

INSURANCE MEN HEAR RAPPINGS AT THEIR DOOR

"THERE'S A RAPPING AT OUR WINDOW," is the opening statement of an organization which is to be formed in the state of Montana for the purposes of fighting the farmers organization, the Nonpartisan league. It is evidently feared that the "rapping" will soon develop into a full sized knocking as insurance men or "ANY PERSON OR ORGANIZATION INTERESTED IN THE SUCCESS OF 'LEGITIMATE' INSURANCE OF ANY KIND" are invited to join in the fight against the establishment of state insurance of any kind.

INSURANCE FEDERATION

The men who are invited to join the new organization, which, by the way, is to be called the "Insurance Federation of Montana,' are of the same class of people who have been putting up a strong protest against the organization of the farmers and laboring men, "during the period of the war." In other words it's wrong for the producers and consumers to organize while our country is at war, but it's all right for the other fellow to put his money into a new organization, if it is for the protection of the interests that prey upon the people.

The dues of the Insurance Federation of Montana are to be $10 a year, according to the announcement and a strong appeal is being made to secure membership.

ORGANIZERS ARE TO BE PUT IN THE FIELD IN A SHORT TIME. These men are going to explain the need of the new organization and they are going out after the money which is to be used to fight the program of the League where it would provide for insurance at a reasonable price and of a practical kind.

"ENLIGHTEN" THE PUBLIC

The federation is going to "ENLIGHTEN" the public as to insurance and its functions, etc. Probably with an emphisis on the "etc.' The announcement calls particular attention to the fact that the state has already engaged in the hail insurance business and that it has even gone so far as to write the Workmen's Compensation Insurance from a state fund. They apparently believe that they are entitled to whatever profit they can make from the insurance of working men. In other words they want to get all the traffic will bear. The fact that the state engaging in the insurance business will mean cheaper and better protection for the laboring man and the farmer does not enter into their scheme of things at all.

The real work of the new organization about to be formed at $10 per year per head, is to direct legislation away from the control of the people at the next session of the Montana legislature. It appears to be the plan to take this fund which is to be collected and go to Helena this winter and put state insurance out of business. They are not only going to endeavor to prevent new issues but are going to FIGHT TO KILL THE LAWS NOW ON THE BOOKS OF THE STATE PROVIDING FOR STATE HAIL INSURANCE AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

The one way to crush the new scheme of Big Business interests to prevent the people gaining control of their own affairs is to support the Nonpartisan league program and the men who have been nominated as legislative candidates at the August primary.

ATTENTION, PRECINCT DELEGATES!

Delegates elected to the precinct caucus of the League will be called up to assemble shortly at some place to be designated in your county for the purpose of outlining the campaign now confronting us. Matters of the utmost importance pertaining to the vital business of organization will also be taken up.

Find out about this, Mr. Delegate, paste it in your hat. See that you are at the meeting when it is called. Don't forget.