

THE LEAGUE IN OTHER STATES

ALBERTA MEN TO CONVENE IN JANUARY

Hot Resolutions From Some Locals

GENERAL STRIKE OF FARMERS ADVOCATED AND CONFISCATION OF SPECULATOR LANDS FOR SOLDIERS, THEIR IDEA.

(From Army and Navy News)
The most important gathering of western agriculturists in the history of Alberta will be the coming convention of the United Farmers of Alberta at Edmonton on January 21, 22 and 24 next, when such topics as the tariff and settlement of soldiers on the land will be taken up. The tariff question is a burning one with the farmers of the west who are uniformly against high tariff between Canada and the United States, especially with regard to duty on agricultural implements.

The local U. F. A. branch at Ardenode, Alta., is submitting a resolution demanding the election of a delegation to proceed to Ottawa in conjunction with other farmer associations in the western provinces, "to protest against any increase in the tariff." The proposal is expected to receive almost unanimous support from the convention though other locals are demanding that it be amended to include a demand for the reduction of present duties.

RETURNED SOLDIERS

Lakeside of Lacombe, Alta., is presenting a resolution demanding that the convention go on record as urging the government to make every effort to locate returned soldiers in their own home and neighborhood, also that the government purchase outright all available lands held vacant by speculators, railroads or other corporations and use them for locating returned veterans. This is aimed chiefly at the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay company, two corporations which are the holders of big land grants in the western provinces.

A GENERAL STRIKE

As an illustration of the sentiment of the farmers against tariff on farm machinery, the Lawrence local of Zetland, Alta., is proposing that the convention place itself on record in ordering a general strike of all farmers "until such time as the government sees fit to remove the duties on all farm machinery."

Among other resolutions which will be submitted to the convention are the following:

Demanding that the government commandeer vacant lands held by speculators "at prices paid by these parties for the same and open them for settlement by returned veterans.

Asking the government to investigate the profits of mine operators and regulate them by a sharply graduated income tax.

Asking the government to fix the profit to be made on substitutes for wheat flour.

Enactment of a law by the Legislature of Alberta making the purchase of farm produce on any other basis than cash illegal.

Appointment of a federal commission to investigate profits of all companies in Canada.

Enactment of a provincial law making it necessary for hail insurance companies to adjust damages within ten days of the occurrence of such damage.

Requesting the provincial government to investigate methods used in Montana and North Dakota to destroy gophers with a view to adopting a similar system in Alberta.

Enactment of federal legislation making war bonds legal tender for all debts, public and private.

Provincial legislation allowing chiropractors to administer treatment in Alberta.

Enactment of a provincial law compelling owners of livery and feed barns to build standard mangers.

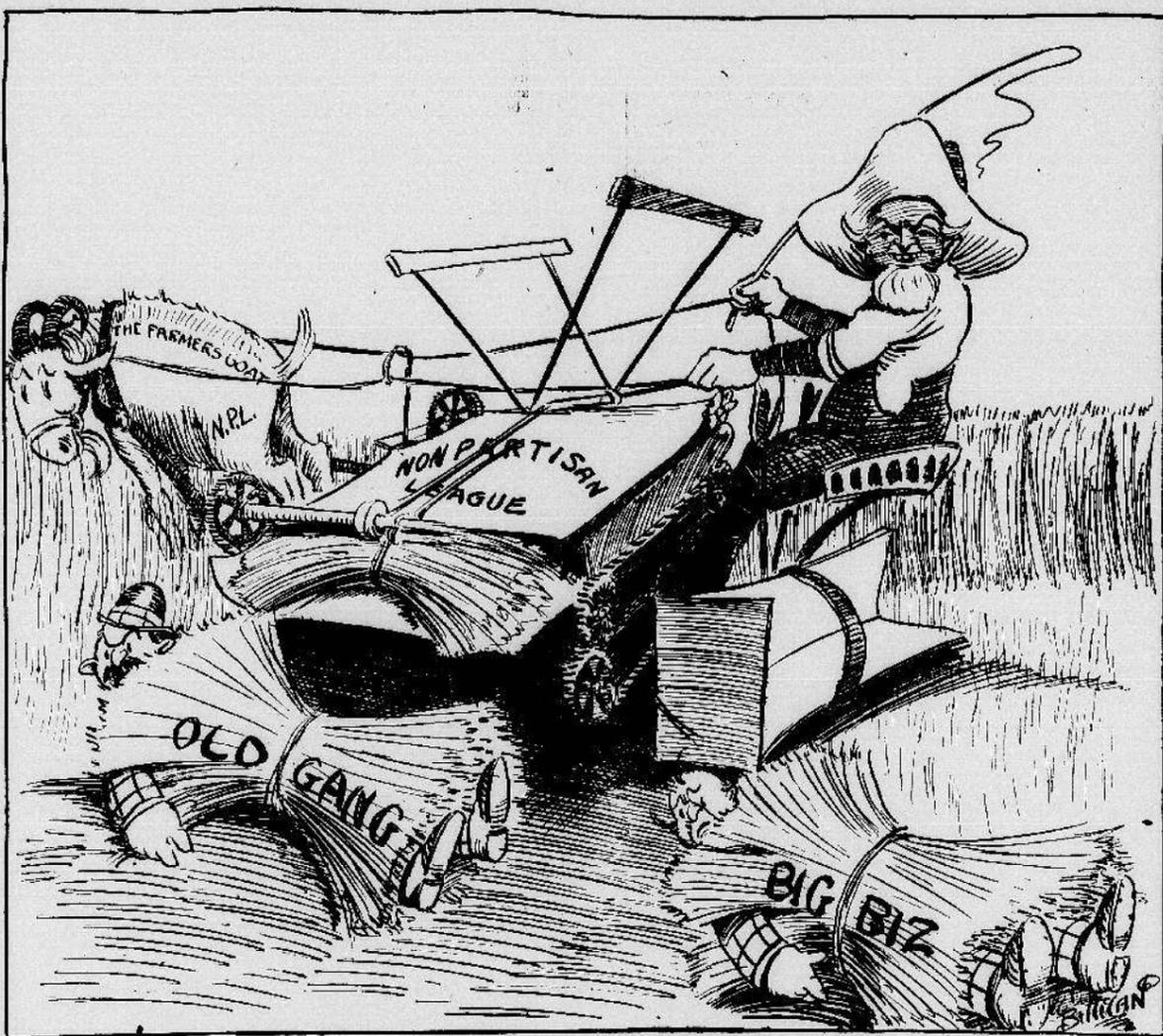
Requesting that the official organ of the association refrain from using titles of nobility in connection with any person's name.

Demanding that the federal government refuse in the future to enter into compact with any sect or brotherhood guaranteeing exemption from military service.

Asking the federal parliament to pass legislation taking from the governor general of Canada the power to repeal through an order in council all legislation.

Undismayed.

The Nonpartisan League of Idaho, organized but a few months ago, has made its first campaign in this state. Pitted against the League was not only the Republican party, thoroughly organized, but the leaders of the old-line Democratic party, together with the power trust and big business, which know no party lines. When we come to look over the field it is really surprising that the League has won any victories in this, its first contest. The League members are not discouraged, but with united front and growing ranks will keep on until right and fair dealing are triumphant. The farmers have made their influence felt even though their organization was young. They will surrender no vantage point gained and at the next contest they will win.—Nampa (Idaho) Record.



STINK WEED IN THE CROP

SUPREME COURT HEARS IMPASSIONED PIFFLE IN DEFENCE OF PROFITEERS

Gilbert Martin Cases Taken Under Advisement

(Minnesota Leader.)

Arguments were presented before the Minnesota supreme court Monday on the petition of Joseph Gilbert, former manager of organization work of the League, and Sergeant Louis W. Martin, U. S. A., former League organizer, for a new trial and on an appeal from the judgment of the district court of Goodhue county, juries of business men in which had convicted both men of trumped-up charges of disloyalty.

Briefs were filed by the opposing lawyers and after the oral arguments the court took the joint case under advisement. Thirty-eight assignments of error are to be considered and a decision is not expected for several weeks.

The chief point emphasized by George Nordlin, attorney for Gilbert and Sergeant Martin, was that even had the accused men said the things at Kenyon, August 18, 1917, attributed to them by prejudiced witnesses, which was not admitted, their words constituted no offense. They were charged with uttering words which were calculated to discourage enlistments in the army and navy and obstructing the prosecution of the war.

"When we come to read the language charged in the indictments and compare it with that upon which the prosecution in the Towney case was based, and remember that Gilbert testified that he quoted from the some resolutions which the supreme court held were without taint of sedition, we are forced to the conclusion that Gilbert's talk was nothing more or less than an attempt to give orally the same expressions and views contained in the resolutions," Mr. Nordlin said.

Mr. Nordlin referred at length to the parrot-like chorus of the witnesses for the prosecution, all of whom repeated word for word without variation the exact language of the indictment.

"Our courts have always held," Mr. Nordlin said, "that exact similarity of statements is untrue to human experience and should be rejected."

Randall Referred To.
The case of N. S. Randall, former League lecturer, who was convicted of a similar offense in the Goodhue county district court, in a trial featured by intimidation of witnesses and mob violence, was brought into the argument, because Sergeant Martin was accused of having declared that he approved of what Gilbert and Randall had said at the Kenyon meeting.

Randall's case will be brought before the supreme court within a few weeks.

"Aside from the childish attempt to fasten a criminal effect to Martin's expression of agreement to what Gilbert and Randall are supposed to have said, the only statement attributed to Martin in the indictment is that he said he was pro-German," Mr. Nordlin declared. "If this were not said in a purely joking manner as testified to by him and used in the particular way in which he testified, how can it be considered as teaching and advocating that citizens should not aid the government in the carrying on of the war?"

Mr. Nordlin asked, "Such an expression," he continued, "if truly indicative of the speaker's mental attitude, could possibly subject him to internment or other restrictions, under the federal laws, but surely could never be considered as a teaching or advocating of anything."

"I am reminded of the 'Virginians' statement: 'When you say that, smile.' Martin smiled when he said he was pro-German."

"Unless actual circumstances are first proven showing the opportunity of such language to commit a crime, no foundation has been laid for introducing evidence of what took place a month before, and in no way connected with the circumstances at the date of the offense alleged in the indictment."

"In other words," Mr. Nordlin said emphatically, "the original language used, when oral, is dead immediately after utterance, and its ability to commit crime likewise dead, and the only manner in which said language can under any consideration constitute the basis of a later criminal act is when the language is brought to life again by reiteration, and the evidence in this case conclusively shows that this did not occur."

Assistant Attorney General James Martin and County Attorney Mohn of Goodhue county opposed the granting of new trials for Gilbert and Martin and the reversal of the judgment of the lower court.

Mr. Martin put up a vigorous defense for the wealthy men and fat corporations of the United States, and said conscription of wealth was a monstrous suggestion. He became eloquent in his defense of the 2 per cent of the population who own 98 per cent of the wealth and didn't mention war profiteers once.

It was clear from his impassioned argument that the advocacy of conscription of wealth was "traitorous" in the extreme.

WISDOM FROM THE "NATION"

The Nation.

"For if the mills of the gods have caught and crushed the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs and the kings of Bavaria and what not, they still have much crushing to do," it says. "Every remaining king, whether a well-meaning figurehead or despot, should and must go. But these are now few in number. Then we agree with the German socialists that no man would had anything to do with starting this war should remain in public life. In Russia, in Austria-Hungary and in Turkey they are gone. We hope and trust that the spirit of revolution abroad will not die until all the makers of secret treaties are cast out, and with them, as amongst the worst enemies of mankind, the armament manufacturers, the Krupps, the Cressots, the Armstrongs, the Whitworths, and our own lesser armor and gun-makers. We desire no end to revolution abroad until custom houses everywhere have gone by the board. We wish no end to democratic ferment in Europe until the professional diplomat of the past has been ground flat, and with him those alleged statesmen who believe that the backward or the sparsely-inhabited spaces of the earth exist only to be exploited. We wish no end to the revolution until there shall no longer be talk of developing hinterland, spheres of influence or colonies, but of some means of holding them in trust by joint international agreement for the benefit of those to whom the soil rightfully belongs. Thus we should have England retire from Egypt and Persia, the Italians from Tripoli and Japan from Kiao-Choo, and France from Cochin-China and Madagascar and Belgium from the blood-stained Congo, while the United States sets the example by retiring from the Philippines, Haiti, San Domingo and Nicaragua. We wish no limit to the spread of liberalism until the vicious doctrine that a country shall protect by force of arms its citizens who invest abroad shall forever be discarded. For we are not of those who can see the note only in the eye of our allies or enemies. There are those in plenty—men like Taft and Roosevelt, preachers of reaction and hate—in this country for whom the mills of the gods are turning slowly—slowly, but with the terrifying, incalculable certainty which marks the progress of the glacier that no human agency can stay.

Prussianism Not Dead.
For the Kaiser is but the vilest flower of a system, and it is the system and the spirit which underlie it that must go. The battle against Prussian militarism is not yet won. Its first bloody phase is, thank God, at end. But if this war has proved anything, it is that the spirit of Prussianism exists everywhere, in Paris, in London, in Rome—very strongly—and in Washington. Only in Moscow is it wholly crushed to earth. We shall neither have made this the last of wars nor safeguarded democracy, if we do not extirpate everywhere the spirit that would not only conquer other people's lands as Germany conquered Belgium and Serbia and Italy conquered Tripoli, but would enslave their souls and bodies as well. As long as it is left to a few men anywhere to decide whether nations shall go to war, as long as there are men abroad like Mr. Taft to say that just when we have crushed German militarism we must war against the Russians and Germans to see to it that the revolutions there result in precisely the kind of governments that we prefer, just so long is the war to end war merely begun."

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COLORADO IN TROUBLE TOO

Colorado Leader.

To the splendid, loyal farmers of the League: This may be a farewell. If it is, let it be one we will remember. Let us tell you the story of the Colorado Leader. It has been a child of pain. It was born from the womb of your desire. When you joined the League it was explained that some day we hoped to have a Colorado paper all our own. The wish has been realized, temporarily at least.

One day the state manager, R. W. Morser, called the present editor, Mr. Vance Monroe, to Denver and the paper was started. We at once found that the national war board had declared there should be no new papers started. So the Haxtun Herald was used as the state paper for a few weeks. This was objected to by the postmaster at Haxtun, who is, and always shall be, an inveterate foe of the farmers' organization. He sent in a complaint to the United States postoffice authorities that was a miserable falsification to say the least. But, at any rate, he was successful in barring us from the mails. Then League headquarters made a strenuous effort to have the paper admitted to the mails as the Colorado Leader. A man was sent to Washington to intercede with the war industries board. He was partially successful, for the board gave a temporary permit up to the 5th of December. So the paper has gone on. Now the 5th of December is approaching and the end seems near. The war is over, but the war industries board is not. The League is making a mighty effort to have the paper continued. At the present time we have no way of knowing how successful that effort has been. But we are still hoping. Nevertheless, such a condition cannot continue always, and as soon as the board has been dissolved or as soon as they have changed their minds, we shall again have the Colorado Leader. Perhaps it will not be discontinued at all. All of it is conjecture with us at the present time.

But we want to tell you, whether the paper goes on or fails, that your representatives here in Denver have done our best. All of us have given our minds and hearts that the paper might fill the present need in the crisis of the world. Nothing has been left undone that was in our power to do. These men here in the office are of that temperament which permits of no camouflage or sloth. What they believe they live and act, and the paper has been simply a picture of their real thoughts. It is their task on paper.

The paper has had no fear, for it was armed with the truth. We made no explanation, for truth needs no flowers of speech to make it understandable. Truth may wound, but truth is the edict of God and has a right to wound. But these words of truth are sweet to many, for the words of truth on the tongue of sincerity are the words of love to those who understand.

GETTING OUT TO WORK ON LEGISLATURE

FARMER INTERESTS TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN THIS CITY CITY WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

Within a few days plans will be completed for the conference in Great Falls of the heads of the Montana Union of the American Society of Equity, the Montana Farmers' Union and the Montana State Grange, the purpose being to agree on specific legislative problems they will urge upon the session of the legislature which will convene next month Helena. The letters to the various men interested have already been mailed and the date will be fixed as soon as some of them can be heard from, probably a matter of only a few hours.

The organizations mentioned are keenly interested in bringing about certain actions by the legislature and they propose to concentrate their forces in favor of some measure that appeal to all. The conference will be held for the purpose of coming to an agreement on the things that all may favor, and when that is done it is understood to be the plan to have bills embodying the proposed legislation drafted and have them ready to have submitted at the coming session.

It is disclosing no secret to state that in this way the people back of that plan hope to embody measures that will be so patently wise in their provision that legislators of both branches of the assembly will be able to support the measure because of their fairness. The purpose of the conference which is to meet in Great Falls is to get the interests together on lines that will make possible a popular appeal to the legislators for the bills proposed.

The dates have also been named for the annual Co-operators' congress which is promoted by the Equity society. This year the congress will open on January 20 and continue for five days.