

THE LEAGUE IN OTHER STATES

FARMERS GAIN SOME POWER

PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION. ALMOST CERTAIN THIS SESSION MEANS BIG SUM SAVED

OLD GANG TRYING TO PREVENT LEAGUE FROM DEMONSTRATING ITS REAL WORTH

(Minnesota Leader)

Although members of the old gang in the Minnesota legislature are striving frantically to prevent it, the Nonpartisan league intends to prove, at the coming session of the legislature, that it is of real benefit to its members and to the common people of Minnesota generally.

The league went before the people of Minnesota in the last campaign and promised that if sufficient League legislators and state officials were elected a sweeping set of reforms would be put into effect.

To show that this is a promise that will be carried out bills have been prepared or are being prepared for introduction at the 1919 legislature, as follows:

For Tonnage Tax.

Providing a tonnage tax on iron ore. This will add millions to the state funds in succeeding years and will lift a corresponding burden of taxation from other property.

Providing for taxation of mine royalties that have escaped taxation altogether. The effect of this will be the same—to reduce taxes on other property.

Classifying property so that farm improvements, land used to raise food for the nation, tools and machinery used by the farmer and city worker to earn their daily bread, and personal property generally will not bear its present unjust share of taxation.

Providing state hail insurance for crops at a much lower rate than that provided by private companies.

Providing a workable initiative for referendum amendment to the constitution, so that the people of the state may make their own laws when the legislature refuses to act.

The League legislators will, of course work with legislators elected by organized labor to pass laws intended to help workmen of the cities. The League legislators will work with progressives generally for the good of the state and all its citizens.

The Minnesota Leader, in later issues, will print more about these measures.

The old gang of the Minnesota legislature, such survivors as escaped defeat at the last election, are trying desperately to prevent the League from carrying its program into effect. They fear a total defeat in 1920 if the people are given a chance to see the result of electing League farmers to the legislature.

That is the explanation of the frantic efforts of the old timers to organize the senate and house against the farmers, efforts that are being applauded by the kept press of the Twin Cities.

MORE ORGANIZATION' ELECTION'S LESSON

UNION NEWS POINTS TO NORTH DAKOTA LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP.

Why the Nonpartisan league farmers won signal victories in some counties, while they fell down in others, is explained clearly by the Union News, the farmer-owned newspaper published in Mankato.

"It was lack of organization," the News says, and then goes on to say: "This statement may come as a surprise to many. You thought you had an organization. But you were mistaken. You had only the beginning of one."

"There are more than 400,000 voters in Minnesota. The farmers' organization numbers in the neighborhood of 40,000. In North Dakota there are in the neighborhood of 100,000 voters. The farmers' organization numbers something like 40,000. Look at the results in North Dakota—clear over the top with every man but one. Can we expect anything different in Minnesota?"

"Organization is the secret of the whole thing. And you have two years now in which to do the job up right. The time to start in was the day after election."

That the organized farmers of Minnesota, working in co-operation with organized labor, will clean up in the 1920 campaign can not be doubted. It took the North Dakota Leaguers four years to obtain emancipation. In Minnesota, the League has been on the job only two years. It stands to reason that a four-year old will pull a bigger load than a two-year-old colt.

At that, the Minnesota colt is a hefty animal, as the returns well show.

To those who look on the world from that lofty position where city palaces, country summer mansions, a retinue of servants in livery, and monkey dinners are the order of the day, farmer-labor participation in government looks like "trouble from the gutter." Notwithstanding this unfavorable opinion, in which all the big press agrees, however, their own rule would be a great deal better for these so-called gutterpups.

Listen Beet Growers

TO THE SUGAR BEET GROWERS OF MONTANA:

In the fall of 1914, Montana sugar beet growers sent a committee to Denver, Colo., to attend an Interstate Conference of the producers of that important crop. That committee made a very favorable impression. It was composed of able, fair-minded men. Their work did much for the cause of the industry not only in their own Montana, but in the other states interested. Since then the interstate relation has continued and Montana growers have received material advances along with other states.

During the coming winter many conferences of beet growers will be held, the first at Greeley, Colo., Dec. 9th and 10th. This will be attended by representatives from Utah, Idaho, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. At present writing it is not known whether Montana will be represented in person by delegates, chiefly because of the shortness of the period between decision of holding the meeting and the date, but this is only the first of a series of such meetings and Montana growers will have full opportunity to be heard.

It is believed that the MONTANA NONPARTISAN will be the best medium through which to reach the different districts in Montana where beets are grown, so its readers are invited to follow the work of the INTERSTATE BEET GROWERS' ASSOCIATION FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

The Great Western Sugar Company has 16 sugar factories, in Colorado, 10; Nebraska, 3; Montana, 2; and Wyoming, 1. Therefore the beet growers of those states work in close harmony to secure a fair share of the profits. FARMERS THROUGH ORGANIZATION HAVE RAISED THE PRICE OF BEETS FROM \$5.00 IN 1909 TO \$10.00 PER TON IN 1918. THE SUGAR COMPANY GETS APPROXIMATELY \$30.00 FOR THE PRODUCTS OF A TON OF BEETS. SO CAN AFFORD TO PAY MONTANA GROWERS \$15.00 PER TON FOR THE 1919 CROP. That's worth fighting for. Montana growers should back up their organization.

ALBERT DAKAN, Chairman Educational Committee, Langmont, Colo.

NOT A FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE

The Leader is in receipt of a letter from C. O. Berdahl, cashier of the Minnehaha State Bank of Garretson, S. D., in which he explains that it was himself, and not J. O. Berdahl, the League candidate, who was elected to the legislature from that county. He also says that he is not now and never has been friendly to the League.

We are glad that Mr. Berdahl has notified us of this correction and stated his position because we want to keep the record straight, and also because we think it well for the League farmers to know who their friends are and that they will have no reason to expect any help from C. O. Berdahl in getting through legislation in the interest of the farmers.

Mr. Berdahl also states in his letter that the voters in his county have "shown conclusively that they would have nothing to do with the Nonpartisan League program." We are at a loss to know by what process of reasoning Mr. Berdahl arrives at this conclusion, when the republican platform upon which he was running contained practically all of the demands and planks of the League program.

The tone of Mr. Berdahl's letter indicates that he has no use for the League principles, and it practically amounts to an advance notice that he will be ready to repudiate his own party platform containing the same principles. His attitude and that of practically all of the republican candidates proves conclusively that these ideas were amounting put into their platform to deceive the voters and that they have no notion of carrying them out.

Banker Berdahl is no doubt one of those consistent (?) fellows who think it is a fine thing for bankers to organize, but an evidence of criminality and pro-Germanism for farmers and laboring men to organize and discuss their own problems.

WILL HOLSTEINS GO?

No more Holsteins in England! Startling but true; for at a recent meeting of the British Friesian Cattle society the name Holstein was dropped. Hereafter Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle will be known as Friesians there. It is unfortunate that in Canada and the United States the German name "Holstein" still has to be attached to a breed which the Hollanders developed. New Zealanders call the cattle "Friesians" and South African breeders call them Frieslands. Why not call them "Liberty" cattle in America?

We print the above with apologies to our readers, simply to show, how utterly lost to a sense of humor people can become when they allow manufactured hate to run away with them. We cannot give credit where it is due, as the clipping was sent us without mentioning the name of the publication. Maybe our correspondent took pity and refrained.—Editor.

The only excuse for the present wasteful methods of marketing farm products is that in the beginning the people didn't know any better ways. Now that we have gotten wise, we find vast vested interests in these abuses fighting with might and main to prevent us from applying our knowledge.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE REPORT ALL IN ORDER AFTER INVESTIGATION

The financial affairs and the books, records and accounts of the Nonpartisan league have been efficiently and accurately kept, and all receipts and expenditures carefully accounted and vouched for. The committee of the national meeting at St. Paul last week, which examined the records of the League on behalf of the meeting, was able to trace down every item with ease, and by only two days' work was able to render a full and complete report to the meeting.

One former committeeman from each state of the 13 in which the League is working was on the auditing committee, and the committee employed a firm of independent licensed accountants to aid them in checking up the books as they had been kept by the League accountants.

After this thorough investigation the committee rendered the following report, which was unanimously adopted by the meeting:

The Committee on Audit and Account has made an investigation of the books of account and gone over the Public Accounts Audit Report and takes leave to report:

1. The Committee consisted of one member each from the following thirteen states:

North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, Kansas, Idaho, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Washington, Iowa and Texas. These were all of the states represented. The Committeeman in each case was a member of the State Committee of the state represented by him and a delegate to the meeting of the National Committee.

2. The work of the Committee has undertaken has covered the following:

An examination has been made of the method of accounting cash received, from the inception of the receipt of money from the memberships taken to its deposit in the banks. We investigated the method of filing vouchers, organizers' reports, etc., the disbursement of funds by countersignatures, the proper approval of all expense accounts and other expenditures. The result of the investigation of receipts and expenditures is: That the bookkeeping provides adequate accounting for the national office, each state office and on down to the direct personal account of each one of the two hundred thousand or more members, showing in the case of each member his record of payments, delay and failure to make good under his contract; that the statement of affairs of the national office and each state can be set forth at once and at any time; that we can not conceive of how the method of accounting could be improved upon.

3. We examined the auditor's report, comparing the same with the statements of Thomas N. Keys, Treasurer, setting forth a complete statement of receipts and expenditures from the beginning of the organization, May 1, 1915 to October 31, 1918, and found that in each instance the items in the auditor's report and the treasurer's statement were found to check.

Your committee examined and made a tabulation of the receipts and expenditures of the various states, and comparing these with the statements of the national office they were found in agreement with both the auditor's report and the treasurer's statement of receipts and expenditures.

The auditor's report covered a complete investigation and a thorough audit of all the books of account, state reports, organizers' reports, vouchers for all expenditures, cancelled checks and bank statements and everything was found in agreement, all receipts accounted for and expenditures authorized.

4. The Committee found all employees handling funds are adequately bonded and all personal property belonging to the League properly insured.

5. The method of countersigning of checks and approval of vouchers for expenses and disbursements protects the League completely against misapplication of funds and against extravagant or unauthorized expenditures.

6. The Committee especially examined the personal salary and expense account and all funds handled by Mr. A. C. Townley, president of the National Nonpartisan league. Both his salary and his personal expenses are found to be normal only and are insignificant when compared with "Big Business" salaries for services and responsibility in any way comparable to the work performed by Mr. Townley in behalf of the League.

The Committee made every inquiry which could occur to the Committee concerning the affairs of the League, its receipts, its expenditures, salaries paid, and in connection therewith all necessary records were produced for our inspection, and every inquiry was promptly and satisfactorily answered and every opportunity given for obtaining the fullest information on every topic suggested by us.

The Equitable Audit Company of Minneapolis and St. Paul made the audit and report on the accounts. This company is regularly chartered under the laws of Minnesota and makes a specialty of services for farmer organizations and for a series of years has done more work for farmers' companies in the northwest than all other chartered auditing concerns combined.

The audit was conducted in person by the president of the company, Mr. W. W. Thatcher, who declared that he knew of no undertaking where the organization of accounts and the accuracy and efficiency of the work was more carefully done or more readily checked up as against errors or misconduct than is true of this League. He especially commended the work of Thomas N. Keys, the treasurer, and Mr. Fred Miller, cashier, who are responsible for keeping the accounts and handling the funds of the League. Mr. Thatcher has regularly audited the League's accounts from the beginning. He further stated that he knew of no system of accounting which would enable one more readily to learn the conditions of the whole organization and of all its departments down to each individual organizer or each individual member at all comparable with the method followed by the League.

The Committee, therefore, unanimously report that it is fully convinced, as the result of a complete and careful investigation, as stated above, that every dollar is accurately accounted for and honestly and efficiently used for the purpose for which these funds are provided.

Respectfully submitted by

- T. A. WELF, Iowa,
- E. D. PAQUIN, Minnesota,
- NATHAN GORSUCH, South Dakota,
- E. E. WRIGHT, Texas,
- W. H. JOHNSON, Oklahoma,
- J. I. CARRILL, North Dakota,
- J. M. COLLINS, Colorado,
- O. M. TRONAAS, Idaho,
- J. I. FREEMAN, Washington,
- J. L. COATES, Kansas,
- E. J. ONSTAD, Wisconsin,
- R. J. WEITAKER, Montana,
- J. D. REAM, Nebraska,

Committee.

THE NEW EXCUSE.

It looks as if many who hoped the ending of the war would mean a speedy return of free speech, free assembly and democratic law enforcement, are doomed to disappointment. The facts of the case did not warrant this hope and recent arrests in New York City and elsewhere bear this out.

The suppression of free speech and free assembly and the mob violence such as we have had in the Northwest against the Nonpartisan league were at no time caused by the war. The war has been merely the occasion which the special interests have used to fight popular opposition. The old gang leaders in such states as Minnesota have at no time really believed that league leaders or members were disloyal. They fought the league with these weapons because the league was very close to political success and therefore very dangerous to them. Most of the more extreme elements have also been persecuted not because the scene-shifters ever thought these people were pro-aiser or anti-democratic, but because the war looked like a good occasion to make an end of independent thought and independent action.

Unfortunately for the special interests, this independence which they hate has grown during the war. The hard times of the poor, the unpassed profiteering, the propaganda of the independents have opened many more minds. The nation seethes with a desire for change. Consequently the cause, the real cause for suppression is stronger than ever. All that is needed is a new occasion.

The special interests have already invented this new occasion. They have been building it for nearly a year. By one-sided news, by harrowing tales of atrocities they have made a new terror to take the place of the Hun called "bolshivism." Now, whatever bolshivism may mean in Russia, and we know little or nothing of Russia for the last year because of the censorship and the interventionist propaganda, in America it will mean any one opposing the special interests. Any means of suppressing it after they have attacked it to their opponents would be considered justified.

The issue is here. We must meet it. The most effective way perhaps is to show the foolishness of the new trick. If enough of our people think right, the plutocrats can not do anything.

FOUND! THE HUN AT HOME

Loyalty League Please Get Busy

(Courtesy, Butte Bulletin)

Speaking of that modern barbarian, the Hun, it might be well to keep in mind that Germany has by no means an absolute monopoly on the critter. We here in America know something of the "beast," as Judge Ben Lindsay has feelingly classified the domestic species. While our thoughts are directed to the atrocities committed by the "Beast of Berlin," let us not forget entirely the fiendish exploits of the Hun at home. The scramble for pelf and power has ever been marked by acts of "frightfulness." Indulgence in which, the Hohenzollerns, Hindenburgs and Von Bisings are but a short jump in advance of some of their close imitators here in our own country. This may sound like exaggeration, but if we hark back to the memorable happenings at Homestead, Hazelton, Lattimer, Cabin Creek, Calumet, Butte and Ludlow, we will be forced to admit the existence of the Hun spirit within our own borders. If we allow our minds to dwell on the countless mine horrors, the inhuman conditions forced upon the workers, especially in the steel industry; the heartless sweating of women and children, the callous disregard for human life, what better evidence can we ask for Hun activities. However, there is further evidence, if we but consider the numerous and savage outrages that the workers have been the victims of in the deportations, manhandlings, blacklistings and other coercive knottings to which they have been subjected at the hands of our industrial kaisers.

War Rough Stuff.

The war, while responsible for a lot of additional rough stuff, is, on the other hand, responsible for the soft pedal on some of the vicious practices hitherto indulged in. Of course, this is not to be understood as meaning that "big business" has laid by for all time those weapons used to enforce their demands, nor that their action in laying them aside, even temporarily, was due to any conscientious scruples. Nothing like that, for, while they assume to respond to the demands of the government to lay off, they have been hard put to hide their resentment, and in some instances have openly defied government orders. Witness the action of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company. The war labor department had handed down a decision upholding the right of employes to organize and ordering the reinstatement of those discharged for union activities. But this did not jibe with the ideas of the lordly B. R. T., who proceed to hire and fire as per usual. Result, strike, strikebreakers, a crush in the tunnels; some 200 persons killed or wounded; motorman responsible for the crash missing; "company got him out of the way," says district attorney in charge of the investigation.

Big Business Methods.

The latter incident is one closely connected with "big business" methods, one that has done service on many similar occasions when prosecution threatened. As, for instance, affairs of a concern or corporation calls for investigation. The books are found to be missing. Certain employes are wanted; they, too have disappeared. Executive heads are cited; word is returned, "in Europe," "On the continent," "Somewhere in Siam." And for years and years the people of America have stood for this sort of thing, while discussing the wrongs and sufferings of others. But there is something at present in the American attitude toward kaisers, junkers and pretenders of all sorts that leads us to feel that the business of those gone is at an end. It will be the business of the German people in the days to come to make short shift of their sword-rattling advocates of things hunsish. It will be likewise the business of the American people to hobble and hogtie their no less hunsish clan that have rode rampant over the people and the law with all the bandon of their near-cousins, the Prussian Junkers.—New England Leader.

NORTH DAKOTA AMENDMENTS

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—On the face of the official county abstracts of votes from all but Morton and McLean counties the ten proposed constitutional amendments have secured unbeatable majorities of all votes cast at the general election. The abstracts were opened before the state canvassing board at its meeting today.

No Official Computation

While neither the secretary of state nor the canvassing board have attempted to compute the totals, a Courier-News representative was able to get the following figures from the available returns from 51 counties. The total number of male votes was 86,958. Assuming that the majority of this number or 43,480 is necessary to win, this is how the ten measures turned the trick: No. one 56,752; No. two 60,407; No. three 69,436; No. four 49,218; No. five 43,519; No. six 43,753; No. seven 44,254; No. eight 58,709; No. nine 43,697; and No. ten 44,182.

Awaiting Soldier Votes

The canvassing board has agreed to adjourn from day to day for a sufficient length of time to allow the soldier vote to be canvassed. Meetings must be held daily and adjourned in order to meet the provisions of the law. The soldiers vote which has been variously estimated up to 15,000 is extremely light. It is doubtful if more than 500 soldiers have sent in their ballots. On the returns now in the secretary of state's hands less than 100 have voted. Burleigh county which has 750 soldiers in the service polled seven such votes. Rolette county six, and Richland county 1.

Governor Frazier, the league candidates and the ten amendments secured majorities in the Golden state.

Later Dispatch.

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 9.—Voting three to two on the seven proposed constitution amendments initiated by the Nonpartisan league, and approving unanimously the three amendments referred to the voters by the last legislature, the state canvassing board, today, declared all the measures adopted and passed.

Secretary of State Hall and State Treasurer John Steen formed the minority which opposed the adoption of the initiative amendments.

The three amendments referred to the voters for adoption—the hail insurance amendment, that giving corporations the right to limit the voting power of stockholders, and that providing that four judges of the supreme court must concur in any decision regarding the constitution—immediately become part of the constitution of the state.

The other seven measures will go before the legislature at the coming session for adoption by that body.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY.

Some newspapers are still worrying their heads about the organization of the farmers, declaring that it is likely to array country against the city. As the Herald has before stated, that will depend entirely on the people of the cities and towns of the state. If the business men of the cities and towns line up to fight the farmers and try to prevent them from organizing for their political and industrial betterment, as they have in some places, to be sure there will be bitter feeling engendered, and the towns will be the losers by it. All the farmers ask is fair treatment all round and just and equitable market conditions and facilities.—LINCOLN (NEB.) HERALD.

"The issue is socialism," they screamed before election, but the voters had heard the cry of "Wolf, wolf," so often that they paid no attention to the paid clackers and went right ahead attending to their own business and voted for the "ten commandments" and Frazier.—STUTSMAN COUNTY (N. D.) PRESS.

One serious thought, what sort of a bonehead is it that will try to make people believe that the large majority of the voters of a state like North Dakota is unpatriotic. There isn't a state having as large as 10 per cent of disloyal voters.—BLAINE (WN.) JOURNAL.

We hate to revive the apparently moribund Irish question, but can it be possible that the Czech-Slovaks are to get home rule ahead of the Emerald Isle?—MORTON COUNTY (N. D.) FARMERS' PRESS.