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GANG PRIMARY AMENDMENTS PLOT TO HAMPER LEAGUE

LEAGUE POSITION MADE PLAIN WANT MILL-TERMINAL ELEVATOR TO MAKE STATE PLAN SUCCESS

To Introduce Legislation for Erection and Operation

ELEVATOR PROVING ELEVATING SUBJECT—GANG DONT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT AND WISH THEY DID—GREEKS BRINGING GIFTS ARE SAME OLD GREEKS OF COURSE, BUT THIS TIME GIFTS ARE ON THE GREEKS—TROIANS ARE WISE TO GAME AND PROCEED TO GUM IT—LEAGUE MEN MAKE FIGHT FOR MILL TERMINAL AND THAT'S HOW SHE GOES—FARMERS BEHIND LEAGUE FOR MANUFACTURE OF MONTANA PRODUCT IN MONTANA UNDER GOOD CONDITIONS AND WAGES—GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL GUARANTEE BOTH AS WELL AS PURITY OF PRODUCT.

That the League position on the terminal elevator has stirred up a good deal of wrath in the buzzard roost, is evidenced by the quandy in which the "old gang" find themselves. There is a good deal of caucusing and gumshoeing around the capitol and the gang press have rigged up in farm clothes, once again, the celebrated fountain of wisdom on agricultural lore, Sam Tegarden.

The press reports, Sam has been featurally indignant with the League for making its position plain and declares, in his well known heroic style, that the Nonpartisan has been guilty of a "brazen lie." Aside from the fact that Sam is an connoisseur in such terminological brass vessels, and that's no lie; there is no truth in Sam's remarks, as usual.

The League's Position.
The Nonpartisan league, representing the majority of the farmers of this state takes the position that a terminal elevator is not and never was merely a storage elevator. It surely must be plain to the most unthinking, that somewhere, somehow, grains for human and animal consumption must reach a mill. This is the point of termination in the view of the League legislative delegation, and there is certainly no other way to look at it. The position is that since this must be so, the sooner the grain reaches the mill, the better, and it is the part of wisdom and necessity to establish the mill as close to the elevator as possible. Therefore, the League stands for the building of the elevator and mill in conjunction.

Urge Building Elevator.
It has been said that the League is opposed to the building of the elevator. Nothing could be further from the truth. For the Nonpartisan league the mandate of the people expressed through the referendum is the final court of appeal in a Democracy, and the people of this state have spoken in no uncertain terms regarding the erection of this storage elevator. The bill as it stands at present would not however, make such an elevator a success from the point of view of those who must use it and who must pay for its erection, hence the League is introducing legislation to not only make the venture a paying proposition, but to bring to Montana people benefits which they would otherwise lose.

Advantages of Mill.
The erection of a real terminal, that is, a huge mill with storage elevator capacity equal to any rail-head or seaboard transfer elevator, operating under the wonderfully cheap hydro-electric power which is possible by the state ownership and control of the vast dam sites for which Montana is famous, would bring to the people of Montana extraordinary benefits.

It would end the peculiar situation arising from the facts that the milling trust sells its products manufactured in Montana at the same price as it does the same flour, sold in Chicago. It would mean that the farmers of Montana could be guaranteed that there would be no gouging in grading and weighing as it is at present. It would set the highest standard of milling products produced at value of which modern scientific manufacture is capable. It would guarantee the purchaser of these products against adulteration and the mixing of inferior grains into the

milling of high grade flour, and it would establish the principal of state ownership and control in Montana.

Stock and Dairy Industry.
Further advantages are easily seen when the dairymen's feed problem is considered. It is well known to millers that the greatest percentage of profit arises from the sale of what is known as by-products; bran, etc. These lesser products appear as the result of the process of milling flour and they are almost, if not entirely, clear profit with the subtraction of the fractional running expenses incurred. Yet so "highly developed" has the milling industry become in the hands of private corporations that into these by-products are swept all the tailings of the cleaning mills and the dust which accumulates in floor sweeping. Wild oats, mustard, buckwheat, bird-weed and the rest, all contribute their share to the millers profit and to the undoing of the unfortunate consumer of bran feed. The laxative properties of cat-tail, the heating and life giving elements of shorts, are so adulterated and thinned out that pine wood sawdust would be about as beneficial, if fed to stock.

Aside from this the price demanded does not rest on the value of a product at the mill door, with the necessary increase, for transportation and storage as the distance from the mill increases, but is based upon the average cost of production over the American continent, plus the ability to stick the consumer for all the traffic will bear, consequent upon the power of monopoly.

With the mill once established under state control and ownership, the monopoly would be broken and the sale of the products would proceed according to the laws of industry shorn of the instinct to plunder. With the profit instinct eliminated the desire for adulteration and price gouging disappears also, so that dairymen and stock growers would have a positive guarantee that what they ask for, they would get, and that the label on the outside of the sack would be a sure indication of the contents thereof. Dairy and cattle raising would be so stimulated that it would take its place among the most prominent industries of the state.

Location.
One of the objectionable features to the contest has been the sordid endeavors of certain elements to fix the location of the elevator at points which would be disadvantageous to the state as a whole, providing it stimulated their own particular real estate or property interests. The Nonpartisan league does not take a localized view of the situation, but plans, since they have control of the legislature and have amended the constitution to provide for the erection of these mill terminals at every point in Montana adjacent to a sufficiently large grain raising center. Thus Montana grain will be ground by mills owned and operated by Montana's people and there will go out into the world stream of high grade flour and milling products, guaranteed under the seal of Montana, whereas, do the opposition succeed in erecting only storage elevators, one of two things becomes certain. Either these elevators will be mere collection agencies for privately owned and controlled mills at more or less distant points, or they will become adjuncts to the local machinery of the Washburn Crosby Milling Trust. Against these two latter propositions, the League sets its face and the fight is on.

PRIZE LETTER NO. 3.

Belt, Mont., Jan., 1919.

Mr. D. O. Westman, Northport, Wash.

Dear Friend: In these strenuous times new history is being made with speed. A new psychology is forming in a new mould. Man's soul is struggling to find harmony with the universal process itself.

The plain honest working people never want in any country—they are forced thereto by "God ordained" rulers—but when the people of United States were called on to go to Europe and fight against autocratic militarism, and for democracy, our young men went over there with a will to kill war; and they did. Now it is every honest person's duty to see to it that war is kept dead, so that jingoes and profiteers cannot resurrect it. Democracy must be upheld.

The working class are slowly waking from their lethargy to the real social and economic facts determining their fate. We have been told by the old party politicians that politics were too dirty for "honest" farmers to meddle with. But who made politics dirty? Certainly not the farmers. Anyhow when they as well as the industrial workers begin to understand that all social and economic questions are decided through politics, they are hand in hand becoming true brothers, going into politics—not the customary dirty stuff—but clean, sober, moderate and practical politics, set forth in the National Nonpartisan league demands in their program.

If you are not already a member of the League, which now politically dominates North Dakota to the great benefit of all concerned in that state, get acquainted with its honest principles, high ideals and glorious results.

As you are an upright man and have considerable influence among your neighbors, I advise you to study the League's aim and point it out to such of your friends that have not heard the glad tidings, and they will surely all be members and do their bit to make this world better, by curtailing the interlocked plunderbands awful toll from the wealth produced by labor. Never mind the abusive assaults on the League by the kept press and other unwarranted mob tactics, which logically is the strongest recommendation for the League, next to its own merits, and conclusively proves that right and wrong, truth and falsehood, good and evil cannot mix.

We have adequate proof that it is high time and very necessary for the toiling masses to get organized, and affirm with the ballot their demand to be represented in Congress and Legislative halls to have some say in formulating the laws whereby the nation is governed, which heretofore they have been denied through lack of solidarity.

When a parasite that produces nothing has five million dollars income a month; and five per cent—also non-producers—of our population owns two-thirds of the nation's wealth, and consequently the big bulk of the people become paupers or nearly so, there is something very rotten in our social structure. And remember, it is through political games that this abnormal state of affairs have come about, by giving special privileges to a few which makes too heavy a burden for the many of Big Biz is running pretty near everything in this country now—except the Nonpartisan league, over which fact they are very angry.

So my Friend, let us all join our fellow brothers in the League, make politics clean by applying truth and righteousness, see justice done to all with special privileges to none, work to see the League's aim realized, insuring our freedom and happiness.

Yours truly,

O. F. JOHNSON.

URGE ADOPT LEAGUE-LABOR BILL

American Association for Labor Legislation Write Central Bodies

That the Workmen's Compensation Act which was drafted by League lawyers and which W. F. Damm is striving to introduce against the efforts of the old gang legislative committee at Helena should meet with the approval of all union men is demonstrated by the fact that the American Association for Labor Legislation, amongst whose general officers the name of Woodrow Wilson appears, have written to all central bodies throughout the state recommending the passage of the act.

The League Bill is based upon the Ohio law which gives generous compensation, covers vocational diseases and provides for widows and children of men who die of these diseases or are killed outright at work. The latter which is as follows shows clearly in the manner in which the Ohio law is viewed by this body of experts.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABOR LEGISLATION.
Jan. 24, 1919.
Mr. J. Frank Kiernan, Secy., Cascade County Trades and Labor Assembly, Box 560, Great Falls, Mont.
Dear Sir: When the question of workmen's compensation comes up at the Montana Federation of Labor convention, I hope that the Federation will take definite action in favor of the sort of bill which experience has

FORCE PUNK PARTY SYSTEM DOWN THROATS OF FREEMEN NIX ON NONPARTISANS NOW

Gang Says Nonpartisan Must Be Banished.

COONEY, OF CASCADE, AND BUCHANAN OF YELLOWSTONE, INTRODUCE BEAUTIES TO HALT LEAGUE IN ITS CONQUEST OF POLITICAL POWER.—MIGHT AS WELL LEGISLATE AGAINST THE WIND, BUT STONE AGE POLITICIANS LEARN NOTHING AND FORGET WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED—SO MATTER DOES NOT MATTER MUCH, EXCEPT INDICATION OF WHERE THESE GENTS STAND—KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GAME, ITS GETTING INTERESTING.

The appearance of the National Nonpartisan league in the state of Montana and its successful fight for recognition at the last election has given rise to many and various schemes on the part of the old gang to hamper its progress or destroy it altogether.

Among these schemes are the various substitute leagues and fellowships whose activities range all the way from fraternizing with to inflicting bodily injury upon the Nonpartisan League members.

Another favorite trick is to study the League bills as closely as possible in the letter but absolutely opposed to them in spirit and purpose.

Among these legislative tricks the various attempts to amend the present Primary Law are very prominent. The Nonpartisan league being nonpartisan and therefore going into all parties to seek candidates presented to the politician a very singular problem. They are therefore figuring around in a desperate endeavor to so arrange the law that it will be impossible for the Nonpartisan league to function at all.

Party Politics.

The old game of divide and rule which has been so successful in the past is the only means by which the politician may hope to serve the copper crowd for if the people follow the nonpartisan idea and finally dispense with the party business altogether, the real nature of the political game will stand revealed in all its shameful hypocrisy and it will then be seen that whether the copper crowd manifest themselves as Republicans or Democrats, or both, the effects are the same.

The Primary Law.
Those who wrote the Primary Law as it is at present shamelessly violated the first principle of democracy by fixing the date of election at the precise time when the great farming portion of the electorate could not get to the polls. This caused a great deal of protest and in a previous session a bill was introduced by some Equity men to change the date of the primaries to June. The old gang not having yet heard of the Nonpartisan league and full of overweening confidence simply laughed at them, but now that the League has appeared highly organized, well directed and skillfully managed and determined to wrest political control from the copper crowd and place it in the hands of the people of Montana, and because the League platform calls for a nonpartisan election law, which would make the machinery of elections as free as is humanly possible, there is a desperate hurry amongst the old line outfit to introduce something "just as good."

Cooney Bill to Hamper League.
Among the many bills introduced to amend the Primary Law, perhaps the Cooney Bill presents the idea of the Cooney crowd as well as any. The demand for changing the date of the Primary election being so insistent and the League having introduced a bill to that effect, Cooney of Cascade's could not well ignore the thing and so prefaces his bill with a phrase setting the date of the primaries for June. But like all legisla-

tion emanating from the sixth floor of the Hennessy building, the change of date is the sugar-coating on a very bitter pill.

The bill proposes to make it impossible for any organization but the regular parties to function and proposes that a political party be defined as, "one which at the last preceding election cast at least twenty per cent of the total vote cast for congressional candidates at the last election."

A new party may be organized on petition of at least two per cent of the total vote cast at the last general election for the successful candidate for governor. Defeat in the primaries puts a candidate out of the race.

Among the worst features of the bill and one which simply means that it is practically forbidden to vote on two different party tickets—a restriction which is one of the most irritating provisions of the present bill—is the requirement that the voter shall indicate the party ballot he desires, and the voter's selection shall constitute a declaration of party affiliation. He may be challenged however, by some of the two party watchdogs, who will be at the polls and his allegiance to the party whose ballot he has asked for doubted. He will then be required to oath before a judge of election, to the effect that he is in good faith a member of the party, and intends to affiliate with it at the ensuing election. There are many other provisions in the bill which seek to hamper the free expression of the suffrage, but since it is to be submitted to referendum at a special election held on the first Tuesday in June, 1919, the voters will have ample opportunity to express themselves upon it.

New Ballot Scheme.

As if this were not enough there has been introduced by Representative Buchanan of Yellowstone county, a bill providing for an arrangement whereby it may become known early in the day how the voting is going, and time enough allowed for the getting together of sufficient rival voters to overcome the earlier indications.

The measure provides for the COUNTING OF BALLOTS AND THE TABULATION OF VOTES DURING THE DAYTIME WHILE THE VOTING IS BEING DONE, although the result will not be made public until the polls close.

The idea is to have two ballot boxes. One of the boxes numbered one and the other two. It would be the duty of the judges to select two of their number, not of the same political party, who should be called receiving judges.

During the first hour of voting the ballots would be deposited in box number one and the end of the hour would be turned over to the receiving judges, who would proceed to count them. And so on through the day.

It is provided in the bill that all persons involved would be sworn to secrecy during the day, but since this is Montana, and since the copper crowd have the most infamous reputation for election frauds, it is but mere cynical humor or fatuous innocence, that could suggest the introduction of such a bill.

The League Stand.

The legislative delegation of the Nonpartisan league are on the watch for all these devices and subterfuges of the opposition and there will be a long hard fight in the legislature before such vicious legislation becomes law.