

# THE MONTANA NONPARTISAN

VOLUME 3

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1919

NUMBER 7.

# THE REFERENDUM

## LEAGUE LEGISLATION BUTCHERED GANG GOUGE PROGRESSIVE BILLS COPPER COLLAR STILL SUPREME

Stillman Stirs Them Up.

HERD LAW IN SUCH SHAPE THAT OWN GRANDAD WOULD NOT KNOW IT. COMPENSATION LAW SHOT TO PIECES AND BURIED WHILE IMPOSTER WALKS AROUND AND SMILES. SAME FATE MEETS MANY OTHER GOOD MEASURES. GANG IN COMPLETE CONTROL DIGGING GRAVE FOR 1920 FUNERAL. LEAGUERS PUT UP STIFF FIGHT AND SMILE.

Reports from Helena show very little progress in getting work done and a great deal of noise about nothing. The copper crowd have things well in hand and are mixing the medicine to suit themselves. The League delegation are putting up a fight for legislation along the lines of the program, but all sorts of obstructionist tactics are being resorted to in committee to keep the bills from the floor of the house.

The plan seems to be to kill off the League bills before they have a chance to get into the house or senate, and to substitute fake laws under the same title. This is a very old trick and no one is going to be deceived thereby and it will be found that this procedure will be sufficient to defeat the parties who so conspired at the next election.

**Herd Law.**  
As an instance of this method of deception, the herd law as it is now amended or butchered, is perfectly useless and in fact detrimental to the farmers and is entirely in favor of the stockmen. It involves a great deal of legal procedure which is always fearfully expensive as any farmer knows and it will be poor comfort to a man whose crop has been damaged by stock, to find that the cost of collection saved is greater than the amount of the damage.

It is up to the farmer under the provisions of this bill to take his case for damages into a "court of proper jurisdiction" and see whether he can prove a case. The county attorney is to take the case up if requested. Thus the gentlemen who so loudly proclaim their affection for the farmer are seen to be at the same old game of doing the will of "Big Biz."

Another piece of copper manipulation is increasing the state supreme court from three to five. It has been found that the personnel of the present court have undertaken to administer justice no matter what interests were involved, and this of course does not meet with the approval of the A. C. M. who look upon the highest tribunal in the state as an instrument with which to work their will on the producers.

Just as they never rested until they had driven from office the best United States attorney this district ever had, E. K. Wheeler and substituted in his place someone whom they felt sure would prove more pliable to their orders, so the copper crowd have set about nullifying the effect of Justice Cooper and his associates. Cooper, it will be remembered was elected with the endorsement of the Nonpartisan League and is quite fearless, able and unbiased, hence his presence on the supreme bench is a perpetual sore to the invisible government on the sixth floor of the Hennessy building.

However, these maneuvers are serving to advertise as nothing else could the bare faced Autocracy of the powers that be in this state, and will return a hundred fold at the 1920 election where the people will judge between the League and Copper.

**Compensation Bill.**  
The same method has been applied in dealing with the Compensation Act. W. F. Dunn introduced a bill providing for generous compensation and covering vocational diseases, closely modeled on the Ohio Act which is recognized by industrial insurance experts as one of the best on the American continent. The company however, under whose Autocratic employment hundreds of miners' tuberculosis, leads and arsenic poisoning stood to pay for these by this and the adoption of a bill covering vocational diseases would therefore be altogether against the copper profits. Consequently the minions of the A. C. M. have introduced another one from which these features are absent and it appears likely to carry all of which will be faithfully recorded and presented to the electorate when the time comes.

Stillman Stirs Them Up.  
Meanwhile a little humor has been injected into an otherwise dreary

business by a "Satan reproving sin" performance on the part of D. M. Kelly of Silver Bow county. Mr. Kelly wanted the house to take some action in protecting the members of the house from the calumnies of the political libeler. We reproduce part of his speech herewith and note that nothing is said of the scandalous libel continually spread over the state against the Nonpartisan League officers and members. Mr. Kelly's solicitude for the tender feeling of Silver Bow legislators, did not also cover the person of Messrs. Harrington, Dunn and Bulware of the Labor delegation and since there seems to be ample proof that the delegation from "the hill," with the exception of Dunn and Harrington, were seated by election fraud, Mr. Kelly should not complain that somebody gets up and says something about it.

Mr. Kelly said in part that he did not know whether fraudulent votes were cast in Silver Bow county last fall and asked to have an investigation, but if Mr. Kelly does not know, the general public are wondering who does. He said "I and my colleagues do not want these seats, if we are not the choice of the majority of the voters of Silver Bow county. We do not care to sit here from day to

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## A PRIZE LETTER

London Mills, Ill., February 10, 1919.

Mr. John F. Burnett.

Dear Sir: We, the people of the richest and most prosperous and most influential country of the world, the United States, are facing two most vital questions today: Aristocracy or Democracy, and the two which will follow inevitably, Militarism or Freedom of Speech, which shall it be.

Our soldiers have shown the spirit of God, both physically and morally in their bravery "Over There" in ending the most criminal and bloody war the world has ever known. Now are we to fall back in the very rut so many lives were sacrificed to get out of, or are we going to build a higher standard for the future welfare of our people.

If we have Militarism it means Autocracy and then we will be following the very tracks of Germany, which will mean a great humiliation of the people of this country sooner or later.

If we are to have Freedom of Speech and Democracy, we the Farmers and Laborers of America must make ourselves heard through the governments of this government. We must not leave it to the War Lords to speak for us, for they are clamoring for Militarism in every state in the union.

There is but one way to combat this movement and that is to join an organization with broad views that cover all these points, cutting out profiteers, grafters, junkers and reactionary politicians and thus get a cleaner government and better laws for the farmer.

It is time for us to wake up and let it be known what we want, and then get it.

I wish you would investigate the Nonpartisan League, send in for a year's subscription to the paper and join it. You will find it covers all the points of the farmers and is really doing things for the farmers, and is not afraid to print the truth.

Don't listen to what those reactionary politicians say, for we have furnished them with a fat job and fat purse at our expense long enough.

Investigate the League, you will never regret it.

Your friend,

NELSON ALPAUGH,  
Geraldine, Mont.

## MONTANA MEMBERS SOLID MAJORITY ELECT TOWNLEY GANG UTTERLY DISPAIR

Slander Proves Boomerang.

CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER COMES HOME TO ROOST. GANG EXPECTED TO DISCREDIT TOWNLEY, BUT FOUND THEY HAD BEEN BARKING UP WRONG TREE—MONTANA MEMBERS VOTE SOLIDLY FOR MAN WHO HAS LED LEAGUE IN MOST TROUBLESOME PERIOD—BIG BIZ SAID TO BE GOING OVER KEPT PRESS BUNCH TO FIND OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED—PEOPLE REPUDIATE SLANDER METHODS AND ADMINISTER JUST REBUKE TO TARBUSH ARTISTS.

Only 80 League members in Montana out of the League membership of about 25,000 in the state are dissatisfied with the present leadership and policies of the organization.

This was proved beyond the possibility of a doubt by the vote in this state in the League referendum recently held, in which the League members voted whether or not they would sustain the national committee of the organization in re-electing Mr. Townley to another term as president of the organization.

By a vote of 19,917 to 80, Montana League members, in the recent referendum, have voted to sustain the national committee!

This overwhelming vote of the Montana farmers carries with it approval of what the League has done to date and the plans it has already outlined for the future. Every dissatisfied member of the League in Montana of course cast his vote against the action of the national committee in re-electing Mr. Townley—and there are only 80 dissatisfied members in the League's big roll of farmers in this state!

**Grand Big Total.**  
The referendum vote in the 13 states where the League is organized was as follows:  
For sustaining the League na-

tional committee, 98,391.  
Against sustaining the national committee, 978.

Montana has the honor of giving Mr. Townley and the League management and policies in general as overwhelming a vote of indorsement as any other League state, not excepting North Dakota. Of course, the vote in all League states, especially in North Dakota, is overwhelming enough to put the League opposition completely to rout. Scarcely one member on a hundred in the 13 states as a whole where the League is organizing voted not to approve the national committee, but the vote is especially significant in Montana.

The Montana League has faced an opposition that would have been too much for any organization which was not solidly united and enthusiastic in its cause. The League has faced the bitter opposition of practically the entire daily press of the state; it is fighting a political ring and a copper and water power trust that has dominated the state's politics since the state was organized; it has had to withstand the open and underhanded attacks of councils of defense and has been persecuted with trumped-up charges in the courts.

Yet Montana League members have been unshaken by these conditions. They have given a demonstration of solidarity and enthusiasm for their cause as overwhelming as has been given by League members of the other states where it is organizing.

In North Dakota, the League members voted 28,375 to 219 to sustain the national committee; in Minnesota, the vote was 26,180 to 188 to sustain the national committee; in South Dakota, the vote was 11,027 to 264 to sustain the national committee, and the proportion was practically the same throughout the rest of the 13 states where the organization is working.

**Unanimous Verdict.**  
Never in the history of any organization has there been so nearly a unanimous agreement.

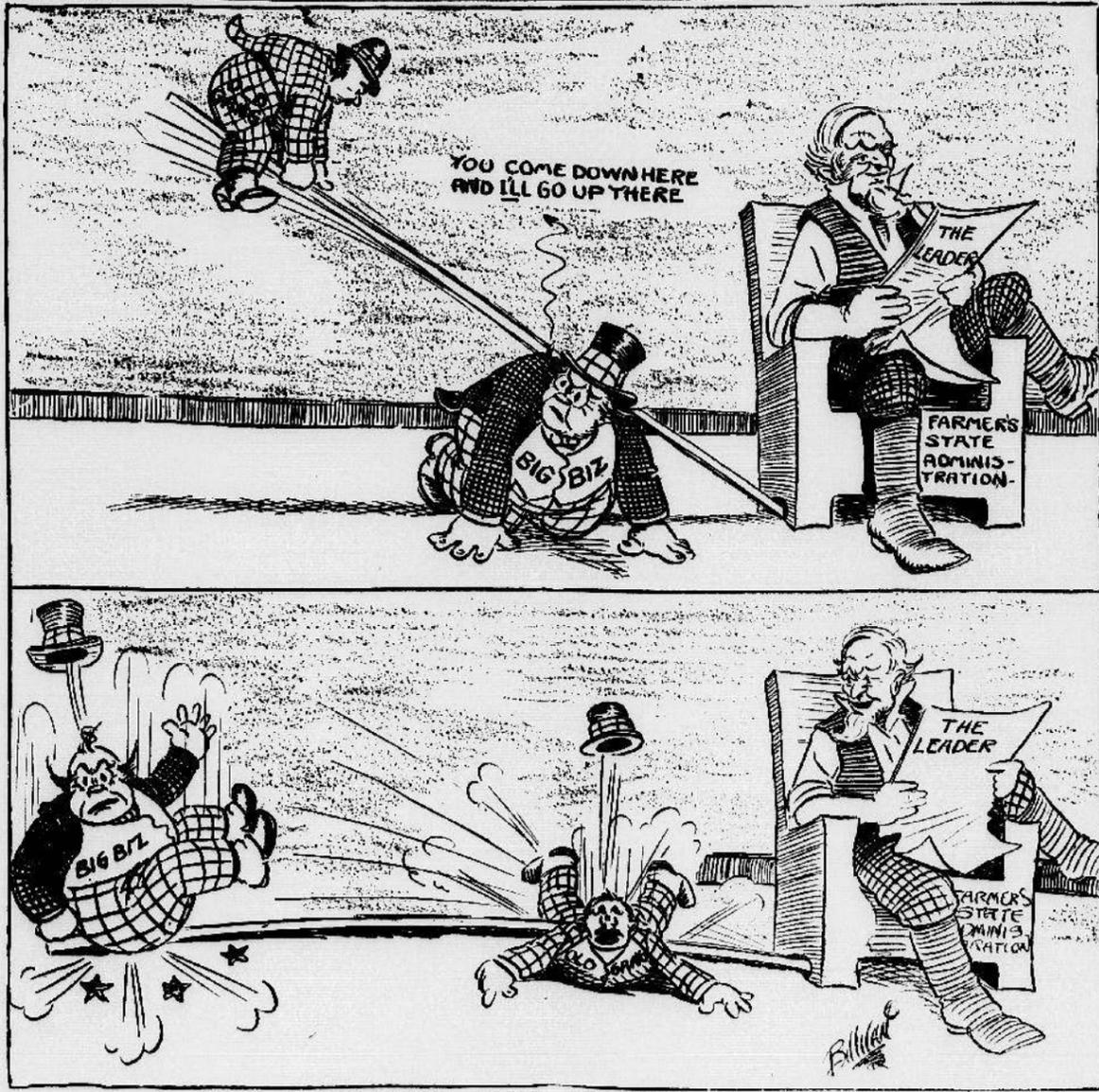
The referendum board met at League headquarters, St. Paul, to count the ballots on January 27. The two Minnesota members of the board, David H. Evans and Charles A. Lindbergh, were present, as was Mark P. Bates, the South Dakota member appointed by the national committee to supervise the count. Lynn J. Samuel of North Dakota and H. F. Samuel of Idaho, the other two members of the board, could not be present. But the board had a majority present and the absent members sent telegrams authorizing the three members present to proceed with the count without them.

The referendum board found all the ballots from the 13 states in their original envelopes, still unopened. They filled four or five packing cases and a trunk. To open the envelopes and count the ballots was a tremendous task. The board put several groups of clerks to work. The ballots were first taken from their sealed envelopes and sorted as to states. They were then put in piles "for" and "against" sustaining the national committee. All the ballots "for" were done up in packages of 100 by the clerks, and so were the ballots "against," in the case of states where there were more than 100 against—but, alas! in only three out of the 13 states were there more than 100 League members dissatisfied with the work of the organization!

Letter Enclosed.  
It was an immense task to sort and count the ballots. Much time was lost opening the envelopes, and it took almost three days to finish the counting, although about 15 clerks were on the job under the supervision of the canvassing board. Several rooms and tables were used, and ballots were stacked about in piles several feet high.

Besides this work, the clerks had to take care of thousands of letters which were included by League members with their bal-

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A CHANGE NOT ALWAYS A REST